Daily Report

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Japan

Spokesman 'Satisfied' With U.S. Force Level

OW2002142290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1404 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—Japan is opposed to reducing U.S. military forces in Japan as long as Soviet strength in the region remains high, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

"We are satisfied with what we have right now," said spokesman Taizo Watanabe, referring to the 50,000 U.S. military personnel currently in Japan. Ten percent of them are reportedly due to be reduced. Current U.S. troop levels should be maintained, Watanabe said, because the reduced military threat in Europe has not yet been reflected in the Asia-Pacific region.

Watanabe's remarks to foreign correspondents followed the arrival in Japan earlier in the day of U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney on a five-day visit.

Despite Japan's satisfaction with the status quo, the spokesman acknowledged that after talks are held between Cheney and Japanese officials, "there could be some reduction of some (U.S.) military personnel." Japan has been assured, however, that the cuts would not detract from the two countries' "level of mobility" or their overall ability to respond with confidence to unexpected challenges, he said.

Watanabe said a minor troop reduction would not worry Japan as long as the U.S. maintains its commitment to the security of the region, and to its defense arrangement with Japan in particular.

The spokesman attributed the proposed cuts in the region to "domestic considerations," such as congressional pressure on the government to do something about the federal deficit.

Watanabe denied the cuts have been proposed in response to initiatives taken by the Soviet Union, such as Moscow's partial withdrawal of military hardware from Vietnam's strategic Cam Ranh Bay late last year. While welcoming the Soviet withdrawal, he said it is only of "marginal" significance when considering the dim security situation continuing in closer proximity to Japan.

Watanabe said Japan has been exerting its "utmost efforts" to share military costs with the United States.

Nakayama Says U.S. Asian Presence 'Essential'

OW2102103790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1011 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama Wednesday characterized the U.S. military role in the Asian-Pacific region as "unchangeable and essential" on the eve of an expected announcement of troop reductions here, according to a ministry spokesman. Nakayama's comments, at a luncheon with visiting U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, follow statements by an official ministry spokesman Tuesday that Japan is "satisfied" with the present level of U.S. troops in the country.

Head of the ministry's U.S.-Japan Security Treaty Division Tomohiro Shigeie briefed reporters on the lunch. The foreign minister said the rapid advance of democracy in Eastern Europe had yet to reach Asia, leaving the regional security picture "unclear." "The U.S. role in the Asian-Pacific region is unchangeable, necessary and essential," Nakayama said.

Cheney gave his assurances that the U.S. commitment to the region was firm, adding that the U.S.-Japan relationship played an important role in ensuring area security.

Both officials welcomed Soviet changes in Europe but agreed the Asian region had not yet seen such a shift. Nakayama emphasized the importance of continued close U.S.-Japan links in light of this. The two also shared views on Okinawa and Sunday's general election which Nakayama said indicated the public understanding of the importance of stability.

Cheney, who made a stop on the southern island Tuesday, pledged efforts to maintain smooth ties between troops and residents there while stressing its importance to regional stability. U.S. facilities for some 35,000 forces cover 20 percent of the island.

Cheney, here on the last stop of a three-nation Asian tour, is expected to announce cuts of 4,000-5,000 troops in official talks with Defense Agency Director General Juro Matsumoto Thursday.

The agency has said any cutbacks would involve excess personnel and not contribute to a reduction in the deterrent strength of U.S. forces here.

The U.S. defense chief is also likely to request a greater Japanese contribution to the upkeep of the some 50,000 U.S. military personnel posted in the country.

Okinawa Governor Meets U.S. Defense Secretary

OW2002113390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1103 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Naha, Feb. 20 KYODO—U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney met the governor of Okinawa on Tuesday to listen to civilian concerns about the U.S. troop presence in the island prefecture, local authorities said. The Okinawan stop was the first in Cheney's five-day trip to Japan.

Okinawa Gov. Junji Nishime presented Cheney with a statement of local requests concerning some 35,000 U.S. military personnel stationed on islands along the southern edge of the Japanese archipleago, according to a spokesman for the prefectural head. Nishime sought a reduction in the U.S. presence, the return of land necessary for resort construction and strengthed measures to

ensure the safety of area residents. Stray bullets from troop firing practice have hit houses in residential areas in the past.

Cheney assured Nishime that he would take up citizen concerns when visiting Tokyo and do his best to smooth relations between troops and residents, the spokesman said. But Cheney avoided any statement on troop cuts in the area. A large portion of a reported reduction of 5,000 U.S. troops in Japan is expected to come from Okinawa. Some 50,000 U.S. troops are stationed in bases throughout Japan.

Cheney flew to Tokyo late Tuesday and is scheduled to meet the heads of the Defense Agency and Foreign Ministry as well as Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Thursday.

Summary of Okinawan Governor's Petition to Cheney

OW2102065790 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 21 Feb 90 Morning Edition p 3

["Summary" of the petition on U.S. military bases in Okinawa presented by Governor Junji Nishime to U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney during Cheney's courtesy call on the governor on 20 February]

[Text] Since I assumed the office of governor, I have worked for the promotion of friendly relations between Japan and the United States based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. However, there are extensive U.S. military bases in this prefecture, which obstruct industrial and urban development and the improvement of the transportation system. For that reason, I have designated the base problem as a major issue in the prefectural administration and worked for the solution of various problems arising from the bases. In 1985 and 1988 I visited your country to petition for the consolidation and retrenchment of the bases in Okinawa.

Regarding the matter I requested, although some of it has been implemented, I understand that there are still active deliberations in the Japan-U.S. joint committee on the return of the bases. I hope that it will be implemented at an early date.

Therefore, I ask your government to understand fully the real situation in the prefecture and to give consideration to the following matters relating to problems arising from the bases, in addition to implementing the matter petitioned during my two visits:

1. On the comprehensive review of the facilities and sites: There is a need to conduct a basic review of the bases, including those facilities and sites whose return has been agreed upon under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. We seek comprehensive discussions between the Japanese and U.S. governments on the consolidation and retrenchment of the U.S. military facilities and sites in Okinawa.

2. On the early implementation of the requests made to the United States in 1985 and 1988: The return of the Naha port facilities, the pipeline connecting Urasoe City and Ginowan City, the Futenma Airfield, and the Iejima Auxiliary Airfield, and the discontinuation of live ammunition firing exercises in Camp Schwab and Camp Hansen and of exercises at water dams in the northern part of the main island of Okinawa have not materialized to this date. I request, once more, their early implementation.

3. On the return of facilities and sites in areas required for resort development: We hope for the early return of the Awase Golf Course in Camp Zukeran, the Okuma Rest Center, and the Onna Communications Facility, where plans for effective site utilization have been drawn up.

Okinawan Parties Comment on Cheney Visit

OW2102062190 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 21 Feb 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Statements issued by Okinawan political parties on U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney's visit]

[Text]

Liberal Democratic Party Okinawa Prefectural Federation: First Visit to Okinawa Welcomed

We welcome the first visit by U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney to Okinawa. We understand that this was part of his trip to Asian countries. We need now seriously to consider how the wave of detente and disarmament, which advanced rapidly in Europe last year, will affect the U.S. military bases in Okinawa. We hope it will be the first step in consolidating and cutting back on the bases. We hope it will lead to some progress that will produce certain results for Governor Nishime's two visits to the United States.

Japan Communist Party Okinawa Prefectural Council: Deceptive Effects

International public opinion is inclined toward the dissolution of military alliances, disarmament, and peace. Defense Secretary Cheney's visit to Okinawa did not respond to such world opinion; he maintained the position of upholding power politics. Moreover, by coming to the prefecture immediately after the general elections, he aimed to create a deceptive effect.

Our party will oppose the intensification of military exercises, the forced construction of the urban combat training facility, and the reorganization and fortification of the bases on Okinawa. We will exert utmost efforts to work for the repeal of the Security Treaty and the dismantling of the bases.

Japan Socialist Party Okinawa Prefectural Headquarters: Demand the Dismantling of the Bases

The U.S.-Soviet summit meeting held in Malta on 3 December 1989 put an end to 40 years of the Cold War structure. Although "the beginning of an era of lasting peace" was declared, tension persists in Asia.

What obstructs the ramifications of the new detente from reaching Asia is the Liberal Democratic Party's policy of arms expansion. During the defense secretary's first visit to Okinawa, we would like to say that the United States is responsible for changing its Asian strategy and we demand that the bases be dismantled in order to establish a new Japan-U.S. relationship of peace from the current Japan-U.S. military alliance.

Okinawa Socialist Masses Party: Courtesy Call Meaningless

U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney's visit to Okinawa should be welcomed by the prefecture's people, who have been suffering from damages caused by the bases night and day, if it would contribute to reducing the number of exercises and dismantling the bases. However, we doubt how much information the secretary could be given about the real situation in Okinawa by staying only 3 hours and talking to the governor for 30 minutes.

A visit for the sake of diplomatic protocol is meaningless. The return of the bases can only be achieved by a resilient movement by the prefecture's people. We would like to carry on the movement to dismantle the bases.

Komei Party Okinawa Prefectural Headquarters: The People's Wishes Should Be Respected

We hope that during the U.S. defense secretary's visit to Okinawa, the future of the bases in Okinawa will be discussed. Thorough discussions should be held, giving top priority to eliminating the overwhelming burden of the bases, in order to build a peaceful Okinawa. For example, as our party has been advocating, the target year for the return of the bases should be set; and compensation should be provided to the military land owners until restoration of the natural environment ruined by military exercises and other activities is accomplished and a feasible plan for the use of the sites after their return is formulated. We have been hoping that a thoroughly democratic approach, which reflects the conviction that without respect for the wishes of the citizens, there can be no prosperity for the nation, will be taken.

Japan Democratic Socialist Party Okinawa Prefectural Headquarters: Unacceptable

It is clear that the objectives of Defense Secretary Cheney's present visit to Japan are to rationalize the presence of the U.S. forces in Japan and to ask Japan to increase its share in bearing the cost of U.S. Forces Japan. Therefore, we cannot expect any statements on the consolidation and integration of U.S. military bases and facilities in Okinawa. However, in view of the popular sentiment regarding the U.S. military bases, it is unacceptable that the meeting with Governor Nishime is limited to being a mere courtesy call. Nevertheless, we do commend, to a certain extent, the governor's direct petition on the requests made during his two previous visits to the United States.

Editorial on Okinawa Election Results

OW2002051390 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 19 Feb 90 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Strong Opposition to Consumption Tax, Bases; The Prefecture's People Choose a Reformist Majority"]

[Text] Will Japanese politics enter an age of genuine alliance and coalition, or will the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] continue its one-party rule? The general elections marking the beginning of the 1990's enter the vote counting phase amid great interest shown by the people, as evidenced in the 72.1 percent (estimated) voter turnout. The voter turnout in the prefecture was also high at 78.46 percent.

Excluding Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Saitama, 44 prefectures in the country started vote counting on election day. Among the 512 contested seats, the fate of 431 seats had been settled by midnight.

Okinawa Prefecture, where six candidates contested five seats, saw a fierce battle among a small number of candidates. "Incumbent" Diet members Massho Miyazato (LDP), Kosuke Uehara (Japan Socialist Party), and Eiichi Tamaki (Komeito), "former" Diet member Seiji Nakamura (LDP), and Saneyoshi Furugen (Japan Communist Party), who succeeded the retired Kamejiro Senaga, won the election. As a result, there has been no change in the previous balance of power of two conservatives and three reformists.

However, the fact that candidate Junshiro Nishime, son of Governor Nishime, —whom the governor supported strongly—ended up as a runner-up, can be taken as indirect criticism of Governor Nishime. That will have wide-ranging ramifications in the prefectural political situation, and some people even think that it may seriously affect the gubernatorial election this November.

Why did the prefecture's people opt for a reformist majority? Aside from the policies advocated and commitments made by the candidates, many factors contributed to that choice. We believe that we can zero in on differences on the consumption tax and military bases issues .

While the three reformist candidates advocated abolishing the consumption tax and envisaged retrenching and eventually dismantling the military bases, the three conservative candidates limited themselves to "revising" the consumption tax and retrenching the bases. We believe that this shows, once again, that the issues are deep-rooted, that the consumption tax issue cannot be resolved by mere revision, and that the base problem cannot be dealt with by mere "retrenchment".

Consistent Opposition to the Bases

After the upper house election of July 1989, a reversal of the balance of power between the ruling and opposition

parties occurred. The consumption tax, which was the focus of the election, has been an acute point of conflict between the ruling and opposition parties. Furthermore, the confrontation over the consumption tax, coupled with the corrupt money politics underlying the political world, as demonstrated by the Recruit scandal, enhanced the people's distrust of politics. The dissolution of the Diet and the general elections were aimed at restoring faith in politics.

Therefore, it can be said that the significance of the general elections lies in the purification of politics and the restoration of faith in politics. If the remote cause of the Diet dissolution was the various contradictions, the most prominent of which was the Recruit scandal, born from the longterm LDP one-party rule, it is but natural that people consider whether the LDP would retain its majority or whether there would be a reversal by the oppostion parties as the main issue in the election. Interest in the general elections focused on such issues as how the reversal of the balance of power between the ruling and opposition parties after the upper house elections last July would affect the election, what would happen to the consumption tax, how the radical changes in Eastern Europe and the USSR would affect our country, and whether the election would serve as a ceremonial cleansing in the Recruit issue. There were more points of interest than in past elections. Among all these issues, it is believed that the voters were very conscious about the question of creating a political framework for the 1990's and the 21st Century. It would seem that generational changes enhanced such consciousness.

Like everywhere all over the country, there was a generational change of candidates in Okinawa. This certainly gives a clue to what the political trend will be in the next generation.

The national issues in the general elections were: the revision or abolition of the consumption tax, political reform, the liberalization of farm products, and so forth. The LDP raised what can be called an anachronistic issue of "choice of systems", using the radical changes in Eastern Europe and the USSR to its benefit, but that seemed to have the effect of retaining some voters.

Although the election issues in Okinawa were the same as elsewhere in the country, other issues such as the military bases and the Security Treaty, and the drafting of the third development plan, carried much weight. These issues reflected the uniqueness of our prefecture, but the debate on "money-oriented" politics was insignificant.

A More Nebulous Political Situation

Although the results of the voting on the 81 seats today remain to be seen, the LDP is certain to gain a majority. It is hard to say whether Prime Minister Kaifu will continue in office or whether the prime minister will be questioned about his responsibility in the party. It is hard to read what will happen next. In any case, since the opposition parties have a majority in the upper house, the "asymmetric situation" in the Diet is bound to continue.

There are numerous pending issues, such as the consumption tax, the supplementary fiscal 1990 budget which has to be dealt with immediately, and the Japan-U.S. structural talks. It seems that the political situation will become even more nebulous. Take the issue of the consumption tax. The situation is quite difficult. The bills related to the abolition of the consumption tax presented by the opposition parties and passed in the upper house were rejected by the lower house where the LDP has the majority. The LDP said that it would present a revised bill, but entered the election campaign without ever doing it. During the campaign, the JSP mentioned a specific indirect tax, but failed to reach a consensus on it with the other opposition parties. The LDP also mentioned "revising its revision bill" but things ended up without the people ever understanding it.

We doubt if agricultural policy, political reform, and other pending issues have really been discussed during the campaign as policies comprehensible to the people. In the case of the election campaign in Okinawa, there was no in-depth discussion of problems in the prefecture, such as the bases; unemployment; medical care in the remote islands, as evidenced by the crash of a Self-Defense Force plane on its way to fetch an emergency patient before dawn on 17 February; the issue of education, where the basic aptitude of pupils is a problem; help for immigrant laborers—this prefecture is the home of many emigrants; and so forth. The results of the just concluded election give important clues to the future political map for the 1990's and the 21st Century. In particular, in the case of Okinawa Prefecture, our next focus of attention is the gubernatorial race in autumn. A great measure of hard feelings remain in the conservative camp after the general elections. How to overcome this will be the task at hand.

There are many pending issues in the prefecture. We hope that the elected candidates will do their utmost at the venue of national politics to resolve the issues.

Japanese Envoy Seeks Early U.S. Trip by Kaifu

OW2102010690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0031 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Washington, Feb. 20 KYODO—A top Japanese diplomat called Tuesday for an early trip to the United States by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who helped guide his ruling Liberal Democratic Party to victory in Sunday's general election. The diplomat said Japanese Ambassador Ryohei Murata will meet with Under Secretary of State Robert Kimmitt within a few days to discuss U.S. visits by both Kaifu and his foreign minister.

Murata recently returned from Tokyo where he met Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama who the diplomat said recognized the importance of their early trips to the U.S.

Nakayama or his successor is expected to visit Washington in early March before Kaifu's trip here, possibly in late April or early May.

The diplomat said Kaifu and U.S. President George Bush will discuss bilateral trade and security issues, the annual summit of seven industrial nations in Houston, Texas on July 9-11, as well as drug, environmental and other matters.

White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said at a regular briefing, "President Bush is certainly willing to meet him at the earliest convenience."

Talks With U.S. Lumber Industry Break Down

OW2102141790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1307 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—The U.S. and Japanese lumber industries ended one-day talks in Tokyo Wednesday without an accord on how to remove barriers preventing U.S. exports of wood products to Japan, Japanese industry sources said. The failure followed a deadlock in government negotiations on the issue Tuesday.

It was the first industry-level contact between the two countries since November 1985. The negotiations were held under Super 301 provisions of the 1988 U.S. trade act.

U.S. industry representatives argued that Japan's rigid housing construction standards and import duties are preventing U.S. lumber exports to Japan, the sources said.

The Japanese side pointed out that Japanese imports of U.S. lumber increased 2.2-fold from 1.58 billion dollars in 1986 to 3.6 billion dollars in 1989, reducing Japan's self-sufficiency in lumber production to below 30 percent, they said.

Japan also urged the United States to step up export efforts by improving the quality of products, the sources added.

Officials Comment on U.S. Rice Export Campaign

OW2102154290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1316 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—A U.S. trade group composed of rice growers and millers is exerting pressure on Japan to open its rice market with a media capaign allegedly funded by U.S. Government subsidies, according to rice industry officials.

Officials in Japan's rice industry said the Rice Council USA launched a series of campaigns mainly through nationally circulated newspapers last December to explain the U.S. rice industry. These campaigns, the officials said, are being conducted in a simple manner with twice-a-month advertisements focusing on what the U.S. rice industry is, but apparently with the aim of penetrating japan's rice market.

The U.S. trade group is planning to take further action to win Japanese understanding of U.S.-grown rice, said an official at the U.S. Rice Information service, which undertakes such campaigns in Japan on behalf of the U.S. group. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said upcoming campaigns will include distributing pamphlets on U.S. rice exports, previewing a videotaped film on U.S. rice, displaying related materials at exhibitions, and conducting a poll on Japanese attitudes toward rice imports. "We hope these efforts will help the Japanese understand the U.S. rice industry more," the officials said.

Japanese farm industry officials estimate these U.S. Moves cost much more than 100 million yen a year, saying they are financed by U.S. Government subsidies under an export-promoting program for farm products. The U.S. program reportedly sets aside 8.5 million dollars for rice exports in 1990, up from 5.7 million dollars in 1989.

Japanese officials in the rice industry have reacted calmly to the U.S. move so far, saying the U.S. media campaign has not had any visible impact yet. "We will oppose rice imports at any cost. Their efforts haven't produced any effects to date as their advertisements are not conspicuous," one official said.

Japan bans rice imports, calling for self-sufficienty in staple foods like rice for the Japanese. But the policy has come under fire from the United States for running counter to free trade in farm products.

Ministry Official Calls U.S. Mood 'Flammable'

OW2002165590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1522 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—The mood of resentment against Japan in the United States has become highly flammable and dire consequences could result if it were ignited, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he found on a recent visit to the United States that the mood there with regard to Japan is a highly distasteful one. While the resentment may appear on the surface to be at a low level, "if ignited, the fire would be all engulfing," the official warned.

The official said the resentment stems from a growing awareness of Japan's enormous presence, which has unfortunately not been paralleled by an understanding of Japan's benign intentions. Meanwhile, Americans are anxious over their country's declining world role relative to Japan and Europe, he said.

The official said the image problem has been compounded by the fallout over the recent Japanese purchases of Rockefeller Plaza and Columbia Pictures, and the controversial collection of essays by co-authors Sony Chairman Akio Morita and politician Shintaro Ishihara, entitled "The Japan That Can Say No." Ishihara's poorly timed remarks in the book that Japan could easily tip the nuclear balance in favor of the Soviet Union hit a sensitive vein, he indicated.

Articles unfavorable to Japan have recently been appearing not only in big city newspapers, but in local papers across the nation, and on a frequent basis, he said. Themes discussed among Americans include worries that the Japanese "are going to completely buy up America," that Japanese neo-nationalism is on the rise, and that the Japanese aim at revenge against the U.S. for losing World War II, the official said. He said this is "the reverse side of the coin" compared with the previous fad in the U.S. to learn from Japan such things as business management.

The official said it is extremely important at this time for Japanese to clearly show Americans the direction in which the country is heading and to cement personal ties. On U.S.-Japan trade friction, the official said bilateral trade relations do not appear to be a "top priority" in the United States at this moment. The U.S. agenda is more preoccupied with such issues as the Soviet Union, German reunification, Nicaragua, Panama, and the drug problem, he said.

U.S.-Japanese Panel To Study Opening Market

OW2102101890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0657 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—U.S. Under Secretary for International Trade J. Michael Farren on Wednesday called on Japan to "open" the Japanese market for the equipment that connects Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp.'s digital telecommunications networks to user terminals, Japanese Government sources said.

Farren told Minoru Shioya, vice minister for posts and telecommunications, that the United States could take retaliatory trade action against Japan based on the 1988 U.S. Trade Act if there is no progress on the issue.

The two countries agreed to form a panel of experts to discuss the problem, the sources said. Shioya told Farren it is necessary to map out details of the issue in the committee's sessions.

The U.S. request to open a Japanese market involves equipment called digital service unit (DSU), which, installed between NTT's digital networks and users' home telephone lines, controls the digital signals transmitted through the networks. In Japan, DSU is considered part of the NTT's network facilities, so NTT buys the equipment from Japanese makers and leases it to customers.

In the U.S., where DSU is regarded as part of users' facilities, companies and individuals that use digital networks purchase the equipment. But the U.S. is alone among major countries in adopting the view that users should install their own DSUs.

European countries take a stance similar to that of Japan, and the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee has recommended that system should be the international standard.

NTT spokesman Joji Asai said NTT has no objection to buying DSU equipment from a foreign company as long as it is based on the Japanese telecommunications standard and is priced reasonably. NTT also would not oppose Japan's adoption of the U.S. stance on equipment ownership, if bilateral talks so decide on the issue, Asai said.

If bilateral talks break down, the issue could become another source of friction between the two countries like last year's dispute over the cellular telephone market. In that dispute, Motorola Inc. successfully persuaded the U.S. Government to threaten to impose sanctions against a range of Japanese imports and obtained a larger access to the Japanese market.

Farren also brought up in the meeting with Shioya other telecommunications trade issues, including a review of the Japanese law on the telecommunications business and scrapping of the differences between general and special business operators in the field of value-added networks. But Japan refused to respond to these requests in the meeting, saying it is not time to do so.

Mitsubishi-General Dynamics To Sign FSX Pact

OW2002141090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1351 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. announced Tuesday that it will enter into a contract with General Dynamics Corp. (GD) of the United States within a few days in connection with the development of a next-generation fighter for the Japanese defense forces.

The appointment of GD as Mitsubishi's subcontractor in the project to develop a major upgrade of GD's F-16 fighter represents the start of the much delayed FSX project at long last, analysts said. Mitsubishi has been named the principal contractor in the development of the FSX by the Japanese Defense Agency.

The Japanese and U.S. governments agreed in November 1988 to develop the FSX jointly. However, in the face of objections raised by the U.S. Congress, which feared the outflow of advanced fighter technology and takes a serious view of the heavy trade imbalance between the two countries, Mitsubishi and GD were unable to conclude a contract.

A presidential veto by U.S. President George Bush of a congressional resolution against the proposed joint development of the FSX was upheld last September, however, paving the way for Mitsubishi and GD to conclude a contract. To prevent the U.S. Congress from renewing its objections, Mitsubishi and GD have since held consultations on subcontracting terms and the conditions for offering Japan's solid-formed main wing technology to GD have been the main problem. Initially, the Japanese side asserted that the offering of the technology should be on a commercial basis. The Japanese side also claimed that the export by GD of products made using the said technology would require the consent of the Japanese Government.

The U.S. Congress objected to the transfer of the technology to GD on a "paying" basis on the grounds of the heavy trade imbalance. The Japanese Government has since made a concession permitting the transfer of the technology to GD, in effect, without charge. The Japanese Government has also made certain concessions on the issue of export permission for the resultant products after GD objected. The technology in question is the latest approach for appreciably reducing the weight of a fuselage and thereby boosting flight performance, analysts said. On the other hand, the F-16 technology to be transferred to Japan is old-fashioned, more than a decade old. Thus, the deal is quite unfavorable to Japan, the analysts said.

Shevardnadze Might Postpone March Trip

OW2102030290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0243 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Washington, Feb. 20 KYODO—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze may postpone his March trip to Tokyo, a senior Japanese diplomat here said Tuesday. The diplomat gave no reason for the possible postponement.

Shevardnadze told his Japanese counterpart Taro Nakayama in New York last September he will visit Japan to pave the way for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's historic trip to Japan in 1991.

Officials here said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had expressed interest in meeting Japan's foreign minister before Shevardnadze's Tokyo visit to brief Japan on Baker's recent Moscow trip.

Soviet diplomatic sources in Tokyo indicated Shevardnadze may postpone his visit to Japan because of political uncertainties in Moscow and in Tokyo early February.

PRC Says Hijacker Will Not Be Executed

OW2102035190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0300 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—The Chinese government vows it will not execute a Chinese dissident held in Japan for alleged hijacking of an Air China flight if he is returned to China, a Japanese newspaper said Wednesday.

According to the MAINICHI SHIMBUN, Chinese officials told Japanese Justice Ministry authorities they would instead try the suspect for the December 16 hijack attempt under Article 107 of Chinese criminal law, which provides for a three-to-10-year prison sentence for demolition or subversion of trains, cars, ships and planes.

Justice Ministry officials, contacted by telephone Wednesday, declined comment on the report. The Justice Ministry has indicated it would return Zhang Zhenhai when it receives a formal request for extradition. But, because China could give the would-be hijacker the death penalty, ministry officials fear Japan also could come under international criticism as well, the MAINICHI story said.

If tried in Japan, Zhang faces the possibility of life in prison under Japan's anti-hijack law. Beijing, claiming Zhang is a fugitive from justice, requested his extradition soon after the December 16 hijacking of the Air China passenger liner bound for New York. Chinese officials visited Japan in mid-January to meet with authorities here, the MAINICHI said. Zhang, along with his wife and son, claims he was fleeing political persecution in China in connection with last June's government crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square and has applied for political asylum. The hijack suspect broke his pelvis when he was pushed out of the aircraft by a flight attendant onto the tarmac at Fukuoka Airport, where the plane had landed. After undergoing surgery in Fukuoka, Zhang was transferred to Tokyo, where he has been detained and also has applied for political asylum. His wife and son were returned to China.

Zhang's lawyers maintain the 36-year-old former textile factory manager would be executed if extradited to China. Under international law, the Tokyo High Court must make a decision on China's extradition request by the end of the month.

Special Diet Session To Convene 27 Feb

OW2102080090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0743 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—The newly elected Diet is likely to be summoned into session next Tuesday at the earliest to elect a prime minister, Diet sources said Wednesday.

Earlier, it was reported that the government may call the Diet into a special session on Monday.

The change became apparent Wednesday, when the Cabinet gave no notification to party Diet managers who were meeting to discuss the Diet schedule, sources said. The sources said the managers agreed on the agenda of the special Diet session, including the election of the prime minister and the appointment of the principal officers of the both houses of Diet.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is expected to reshuffle his Cabinet after his formal election as premier. Kaifu, who steered the Liberal Democratic Party to a major victory Sunday in the general election of the House of Representatives, has been assured he will get the LDP nomination for prime minister.

Kaifu Set To Launch New Cabinet Next Week

OW2002150690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1359 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is set to win reelection as head of the government early next week and will immediately

launch a new cabinet, government and party sources said Tuesday. Kaifu, president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), plans to retain Ichiro Ozawa as secretary general of the ruling conservative party, the sources said. Former Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi would succeed Hajime Tamura as speaker of the House of Representatives, the sources said.

Behind-the-scenes negotiations have already gotten under way among the LDP's five major power blocks over other party executive and cabinet posts, the sources said. Ozawa is a key member of the LDP's largest faction, which has 104 members and is led by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita. Sakurauchi heads a 67-member faction whose de facto leader is former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. Nakasone bolted the party last year in the wake of the Recruit stocks-for-favors scandal.

The LDP plans to propose to opposition parties that the cabinet convene a special session of the Diet on Monday. It also plans to set the period of the session for 120 days through early July in order to discuss the supplementary budget for fiscal 1989, ending March 31, and the national budget for fiscal 1990, party sources said. During the four-month session, the Diet also needs to revise or kill the unpopular consumption tax introduced last April, the sources said.

Kaifu, who is assured of staying in power following the LDP's major victory in Sunday's general election, will win reelection as head of the cabinet in a prime ministerial election at the outset of the special session.

The LDP's three largest factions will share the party's three key posts—secretary general; chairman of the executive council; and chairman of the policy affairs research council, party sources said. The three factions are Takeshita's, former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe's and former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's. Former Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Mutsuki Kato, who belongs to the Abe faction, is tipped to replace Hiroshi Mitsuzuka as chairman of the Policy Affairs Research council. Either Koichi Kato or Yuko Kurihara, both of whom once served as state minister for defense and belong to the Miyazawa faction, may assume the chairmanship of the decision-making Executive Council, replacing Shunjiro Karasawa. Former State Minister for Defense Soichiro Ito is tipped to become chief cabinet secretary succeeding Mayumi Moriyama. Both Ito and Moriyama belong to the 26-member faction led by former State Minister Toshio Komoto.

Meanwhile, representatives of the LDP and opposition parties will meet Wednesday to discuss the date for the special session, which according to the Constitution shall be called within 30 days after a general election.

The four noncommunist opposition parties will hold a meeting of their secretaries general also Wednesday to coordinate their stance toward the upcoming special session of the diet, opposition sources said.

The Japan Socialist Party (JSP) will ask other opposition parties to vote for JSP Chairwoman Takako Doi in the premiership election. Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) and the Japan Communist Party (JCP) are unlikely to accept the request, opposition sources said.

The LDP, bouncing back from a humiliating defeat in last July's House of Councillors election, captured 275 of the 512 seats at stake in Sunday's general election. It boosted its strength to as many as 286 after recruiting 11 conservative independents. The JSP also posted major gains in the election increasing its strength to 136 from 83 at the dissolution. The main opposition party recruited five independents boosting its strength to 141. Komeito, the DSP and the JCP suffered miserable setbacks declining to 46, 16 and 14 seats, respectively in the 512-seat powerful lower chamber.

Reportage on Party Lineups After House Election

Kaifu Chooses Three

OW2102115090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has chosen the three people who will occupy the top executive posts of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], paving the way for him to announce the formation of his new cabinet early next week, LDP sources said Wednesday. The sources said former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa gave the green light to Kaifu's plan to name Takeo Nishioka, currently the head of the LDP's Tax System Research Commission, as chairman of the LDP Executive Council. Miyazawa gave his agreement in his capacity as leader of the third-largest faction in the LDP. The chairmanship of the council is the last of the top three LDP executive posts left unfilled in the new party leadership lineup.

Kaifu, who steered the LDP to a major victory in the general election on Sunday, has agreed to have Ichiro Ozawa remain in his position as secretary general of the party. Mutsuki Kato, a former agriculture minister, has been tipped for the chairmanship of the LDP Policy Affairs Research Council. The prime minister traditionally consults the holders of the three top LDP executive posts in a cabinet reshuffle. Ozawa belongs to the largest LDP faction, led by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, and Kato is in the faction led by former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, the second-biggest in the party.

Takeshita Faction Remains Dominant

OW2102030190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1054 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) faction led by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita has retained its position as the party's largest, while Takeshita's predecessor Yasuhiro Nakasone, under fire for his connection with the

Recruit scandal, suffered the largest drop in strength in the House of Representatives.

The faction headed by Toshio Komoto, to which Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu belongs, former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe's faction and a rival faction led by former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa all showed gains among the party's five major factions.

Takeshita lost two seats, dropping to 69 from the 71 held before election.

The Komoto faction increased its membership from 24 to 26 while Abe's jumped from 55 to 62. The Miyazawa faction increased its membership by one to 62 in the powerful Lower House.

The group formerly held together by Nakasone was dealt the heaviest blow by the Recruit bribery scandal, dropping 10 seats to 50. Nakasone and his close aide Takao Fujinami, also implicated in the scandal, have nominally quit the party. Transport Minister Takami Eto and Sadanori Yamanaka, the architect of the controversial 3 percent consumption tax, shocked the Nakasone faction when they failed to be reelected.

Combined with its strength in the House of Councillors, the Takeshita faction retained its top position with a total 104 members, followed by 86 for the Abe faction, 83 for the Miyazawa faction, 67 for the Nakasone faction and 33 for the Komoto faction.

The Miyazawa faction was boosted Monday by two upper house members who formerly belonged to the faction under Susumu Nikaido. The Nikaido group retained only four of its previous nine seats in Sunday's election and is under threat of dissolution. Analysts said Miyazawa, who once competed for the premiership with Takeshita and Abe, wants to secure one of the party's three major posts—secretary general, Executive Council chairman or Policy Affairs Research Council chairman—which were denied to his faction when Kaifu was elected last August. Miyazawa stressed that Kaifu is to be credited for the victory and should form a cabinet of his choice, in an apparent attempt to forestall any interference by the more powerful Takeshita and Abe factions to have their members included in the cabinet.

The LDP won 275 seats in the 512-member lower house. Its strength has been boosted to 286 with the addition of 11 conservative independents who were coopted into the party after the election. Thirteen LDP lower house members have no factional affiliation.

Kaifu is expected to announce his second cabinet in a special Diet session later this month. Senior Komoto faction officials said the election results reflected strong public yearning for political stability and consolidated Kaifu's power base within the party.

The Abe, Takeshita and Nakasone factions unilaterally expressed their support for Kaifu.

Watanabe To Head Nakasone Faction

OW2102100390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0817 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Michio Watanabe, former Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Policy Research Council chairman, will be installed as head of the party's Nakasone faction, succeeding Yoshio Sakurauchi, political sources said Wednesday. The nod is an important one for Watanabe for two reasons: The job puts him in line as a future prime minister and it indicates how hard it will be for former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, who ran as an independent in last Sunday's election, and won to make a comeback within his own faction which he left last year. The sources said Watanabe is likely to assume the post next week.

Former Foreign Minister Sakurauchi, 77, is tipped to become the new speaker of the House of Representatives.

Watanabe, 66, has been serving as Sakurauchi's deputy since Nakasone resigned from the LDP and his faction last May after he was implicated in the Recruit stock-for-favors scandal.

As a result of Sunday's election, the Nakasone faction suffered the largest drop in strength of all faction in the Hous of Representatives, down 49 from 62. Its rank also fell from second to fourth within the LDP. The sources cited remarks made by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu after the election that Nakasone will have a hard time returning to the LDP and his faction.

Watanabe, who is to enter his 11th term in the lower house, has held such key posts as minister of welfare, agriculture, finance and international trade and industry. His off-the-cuff remarks have often caused embarrassment both inside and the LDP in the past, and Watanabe parted company with the Nakasone faction in the course of the LDP power struggle in 1979, but returned to the camp in 1983 at Nakasone's request.

JSP Gains in Rural Areas

OW2102032590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0712 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Much of the Japan Socialist Party's [JSP] gain in support in the general election Sunday came from voters in Japan's rural areas who traditionally had supported Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP].

Political analysts attributed some of the LDP's waning rural backing to continuing anxiety over the LDP's farm policies. The JSP's rural support hiked the party's strength in the House of Representatives to 136 seats from 83.

In Japan's rice belt, in northern Tohoku, the LDP's domination was upset. Among Tohoku's 50 seats, the number of LDP-held seats fell from 38 to 30, while JSP holdings grew from 10 to 16. Komeito lost its sole seat in Tohoku to the JSP, in Miyagi Prefecture No. 1 District.

In four Tohoku constituences, the JSP took two seats, and the Democratic Socialist Party and the United Social Democratic Party, one each. Conservative independents won two seats. Farmers in Tohoku, where rice growing is a major industry, are now worried about the possible opening of the rice market, now protected by the government.

The LDP opened Japan's beef and citrus markets after once vowing not to do so. The JSP gained support by opposing the liberalization of the rice market and supporting the abolition of the consumption tax.

In No. 2 Akita District, LDP's Farm Policy Executive Tatsuo Sasayama lost, and in Iwate No. 1 District, another LDP farm expert, Tokuichiro Tamazawa, was stripped of his seat.

In another major rice-producing area, in Niigata Prefecture, the JSP gained a seat each in two LDP-dominant districts. In Shikoku, the JSP clinched a seat in two all-LDP districts. In Kyushu, the JSP also took a seat in the all-LDP district of rural No. 2 Miyazaki Prefecture, where former Agriculture Minister Hisao Horinouchi of the LDP lost his seat. Voters in Miyazaki also dumped Transport Minister Takami Eto, LDP's seven-time House member and a farm policy veteran.

In No. 3 Kagoshima constituency, Sadanori Yamanaka, a farming veteran and a former minister of international trade and industry, lost to a JSP rookie.

Small Parties Lose Rights

OW2102033290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0606 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—The poor showing by smaller opposition parties in the House of Representatives election after Monday's final tally of votes means they have lost the right to submit financial and other bills. A minimum number of Diet members must support such proposals before they can be tabled for debate—50 for financial measures and 20 for other bills.

The centrist Komeito, which saw its seats decrease from a predissolution strength of 54 to 45, failed to secure the 50 seats necessary to give it the right to submit bills that require a budget allocation, to revise the budget, or to call for a vote of no confidence. A lawmaker in the lower house who wants to submit such a move must have the support of at least 50 other legislators.

The Japan Communist Party [JCP] and the centrist Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] lost the right to submit other bills. A lower house member who wants to submit bills that do not require a budget allocation must have the support of at least 20 other Diet members. The JCP, which held 26 seats when the lower house was dissolved, fell to 16 seats. The strength of the DSP also fell to 14 from 25 seats.

The 287 seats won by the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and conservative independents that were expected to be coopted by the LDP will give it the right to name not only the chairmen of all 18 standing committees but also a majority of members in the committees.

Although bills and resolutions that have been killed in the committees can be brought to a vote in a plenary session of the lower house, the LDP wants to secure enough seats to enable it to pass legislation smoothly through the committees. The largest opposition party, the Japan Socialist Party, won 136 seats.

Female Candidates Win Seats

OW2102032290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0717 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Women candidates won 12 of the 512 seats in the House of Representatives election, the highest number 41 years, election returns showed Monday. There were five women members of the lower house before Sunday's election.

Eight of the successful women candidates belong to the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), two to the Japan Communist Party (JCP), one to Komeito. The 12th is an independent. The number of women running for the election was 66, the highest in a general election under the present constitution, which came into effect in 1947. The greatest number of women elected to the House of Representatives was 39 in 1946, immediately after World War II.

The JCP, which traditionally fields the largest number of women, had 29 female candidates, followed by the JSP with 12, and Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party with one each.

Most prominent of the successful women candidates was Takako Doi, chairwoman of the JSP, who was returned from her constituency in Hyogo Prefecture.

Most of the elected women are either party officials or professionals such as lawyers. They include JSP candidate Hideko Ito, 46, a lawyer, who topped the list in Hokkaido's No. 1 constituency.

Yuriko Hase, 42, a unique female socialist who runs a bar in Tokyo's Shinjuku, won her first parliamentary seat in Tokyo's No. 11 constituency with more than 70,000 votes.

Among the slogans chanted by female candidates were: "Make the Voices From the Kitchen Heard in Politics," and "Protect People's Livelihood With Mothers' Warm Hearts."

Suits Filed Over 'Unconstitutional' Election

OW2102034990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Lawyers filed suits Monday calling for Sunday's general election to be declared unconstitutional and invalid because of the

disparity of the value of votes. Ten lawyers from Tokyo, and neighboring Kanagawa, Chiba, and Saitama Prefectures filed suit with the Tokyo High Court against respective prefectural election commissions, saying the general election was unconstitutional due to the wide disproportion of the value of votes. Six other lawyers in Hiroshima Prefecture also filed a similar suit with the Hiroshima High Court.

Hiroshima lawyers claim that the value of a vote for a Diet member in the No. 2 electoral district in Miyazaki Prefecture was unjustifiably worth up to 2.8 times more than in the No. 1 electoral district in Hiroshima Prefecture. They also claim it is unfair that the 890,000 registered voters in the No. 1 electoral district in Hiroshima Prefecture get to elect only three Lower House members, while the 660,000 voters in the prefecture's No. 3 electoral district get to elect five Lower House members. A vote in the No. 2 constituency in Miyazaki Prefecture is worth 3.18 times more than in the No. 4 constituency in Kanagawa Prefecture, the Home Affairs Ministry said.

Despite a limited redistribution of seats for the House of Representatives in 1986, the disproportion in voter representation, caused by large-scale migration to the cities, has not been corrected. The Supreme Court has ruled five times on the disparity of the value of votes in general elections, including a ruling that elections were unconstitutional when the disparity of the value of votes was more than three times. In the 1986 general election, the court ruled as constitutional the 2.92 disparity ratio of the value.

In Sunday's election, Keisuke Shioide, a Komeito candidate from the No. 1 constituency in Hiroshima Prefecture, was the largest vote gaining loser with 121,901 votes. Mitsuhiro Kaneko, a Japan Communist Party incumbent from the No. 8 constituency in Tokyo, was the smallest vote gaining winner with 44,154 votes.

In Japan's medium - sized constituencies, voters elect three to five Lower House members.

Police 'Crackdown' Seeks Election Violations

OW2102031290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0721 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Police have so far searched 168 places throughout the nation, including the campaign headquarters of defeated former Vice Education Minister Kunio Takaishi in Fukuoka Prefecture, for alleged election violations in a large-scale crackdown since voting in the House of Representatives election ended Sunday evening, the National Police Agency said Monday. Police have arrested seven campaign workers nationwide since Sunday evening, including a secretary for Takaishi, on suspicion of vote-buying, officials said. However, the number of arrests could rise sharply. Police plan to investigate about 450 cases of apparent Election Law violation.

Police arrested 19 campaign workers throughout Japan for suspected house - to-house canvasing and other irregularities prior to the balloting day.

In Fukuoka Prefecture, police are questioning several Takaishi campaign workers and supporters. The former vice education minister was indicted in the Recruit stock and bribery scandal. The Takaishi supporters each allegedly received tens of thousands of yen in cash in a campaign meeting held in Kurume in late January from Yoshimi Yamada, Takaishi's right-hand man, police added. Yamada was arrested Sunday night. Takaishi ran as an independent candidate despite the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's opposition to his candidacy because of his involvement in the Recruit scandal.

Mongolia

Sodnom Interviewed on Japan Visit, Parties

OW2002090690 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Events cannot be forced and neither is the slow rate of realization of radical reforms in the economic and political lives admissible. We strive to find a way avoiding these two extremities and which would correspond with the specific features of Mongolia. This was said by Mongolian Prime Minister Sodnom during a meeting with the foreign journalists held in the Government House on Saturday [17 February] in Ulaanbaatar.

Mr. Sodnom received correspondents of the Japanese KYODO NEWS AGENCY, newspapers YOMIURI SHIMBUN, TOKYO SHIMBUN, CHUNICHI SHIMBUN, and HOKKAIDO SHIMBUN at their request. Mr. Sodnom underlined that from the very beginning the party and the government announced their intention to carry out phased measures, and this, if you want, can be considered as a distinctive trait of the Mongolian reconstruction, stressed the Mongolian Prime Minister while answering questions.

He went on to say that the Mongolian Government attaches great significance to his upcoming visit to Japan and the talks with Prime Minister Kaifu, including the planned signing of the intergovernmental trade agreement, the first ever official document in the history of relations between the two countries. I expect from the visit further expansion and development of Mongol-Japanese ties and I think that the development of friendly contacts between Mongolian and Japanese peoples and countries is the basis for moving together in other directions, emphasized the Mongolian Prime Minister.

He indicated that Mongolia will continue to conduct a policy of developing mutually beneficial, equitable relations with all countries irrespective of their political and other differences. We think it important to establish such contacts with the Asia-Pacific region countries, said Mr. Sodnom. He also noted that the upcoming visit of the Mongolian Party leader and President Batmonh to China will become

another important move towards intensifying and expanding normalized relations with China.

Answering to questions from journalists on the political situation in the country, in particular concerning the informal organization Mongolian Democratic Association, Mr. Sodnom underscored that this movement appeared as a result of reconstruction in the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP] in the future too will conduct a well-known course at cooperation with it and any other movement [sentence as heard]. The MPRP does not think as impossible the existence of other political parties. And if such parties do appear and if they represent the genuine interests of the people and enjoy popular support, then the MPRP will compete with them on the political arena on an equal footing, said Mr. Sodnom.

More on Founding of Mongolian Democratic Party

LD1802112690 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0757 GMT 18 Feb 90

[By ADN correspondent Hugo Kroepelin]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, (ADN)—After almost 70 years of a sole party—the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP)—and exactly 70 days after the first Mongolian Democratic Union (MDU) rally, there is a second party in Mongolia. After a working consultation of the over 600 participants at the MDU founding congress late Saturday night in the Ulaanbaatar Trade Union Palace, about half of them stayed behind in the Great Hall and founded the "Mongolian Democratic Party" (MDP).

The 52-year-old economist T. Nergui, one of the future nine members of the political consultation center of the MDP, reaffirmed that in the present stage the new party will puruse the same goals that the Democratic Union has formulated in its program. The MDP wishes to conduct a dialogue with the ruling MPRP on all problems concerning the socioeconomic, political and intellectual development of Mongolian society.

The second day of consultations started on Sunday morning with a minute's silence for the victims of the reprisals under Choi Balsan and Tsedenbal. In the political report it is said that the problem facing the Democratic Union is one of breaking once and for all the unlimited power of one party and exposing the essence of the power of a group that is hostile to the people and which is clinging to its privileges with all its strength. The democratic revolution of the last few weeks must forever eliminate the foundation upon which a Stalinist-Tsenbalist regime could arise again.

The restructuring proclaimed by the MPRP is making such slow progress because this party is based on ministries, authorities and the whole apparatus. In contrast the Union places its stake on the people as the driving force of restructuring. Mongolia will only achieve true socialism by increasing labor productivity. Up to now, however, the workers have been working under the force of the administration and did not see themselves as the true owners of the means of production. Restructuring cannot be created with cosmetic repair work to the bureaucratic apparatus; the elimination of all deformations of the political and economic system are necessary for restructuring.

Opposition Leader on Changes, Candidates

OW2002124690 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Leader of the Mongolian Democratic Association [MDA] Dzorig held a press conference in Ulaanbaatar. Speaking there, Mr. Dzorig expressed confidence that the present political leadership of the country will be able to soberly appraise the present day situation and agree on political activity of the people. This was said in response to a question as to what the MDA would do if the leadership rejected demands for resignation.

Dzorig further noted that the MDA will nominate its candidates at the elections to both local organs of state power and the People's Great Hural. He also reminded that the country's leadership hasn't yet responded to the demand of the MDA to hold elections to the People's Great Hural in the first half of 1990 instead of the planned 1991.

PRC Party Leader Meets Rinchin Delegation

OW2002131190 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Friendly ties between the parties and states of Mongolia and China are developing successfully. The friendship between the two countries is also growing. This was said by General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Jiang Zemin during a meeting in Beijing with the visiting member of the Central Committee, International Department head of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, Mr. Rinchin.

The leader of Chinese Communists has reiterated that China will develop friendly relations with all states on the basis of five principles of peaceful coexistence, and the Chinese Communist Party will maintain ties with political parties of other countries under the four principles of inter-party relations.

The Communist Party newspaper RENMIN RIBAO reminds that the Mongolian Party delegation was in Beijing at the invitation of the International Department of the Communist Party of China and held talks with its chief Zhu Liang.

Both sides briefed each other on the development of bilateral relations as well as exchanged views on issues of mutual interest.

Politburo Decides To Remove Stalin Monument

LD1602181290 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1720 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar (ADN)—The Politburo of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party has adopted a resolution to allow the removal of the oversized Stalin monument in the city center of Ulaanbaatar. The Politburo thus complied with a proposal from the government commission for the protection of monuments and took into account the indignation of a wide range of public opinion. The resolution says that to continue to maintain the bronze monument, erected in 1951, is not in accordance with the calls for the restoration of the historical truth, justice, and democracy.

Official Says MPRP To Continue Renewal

OW2002091090 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The paper UNEN has published in its Saturday [17 February] issue an interview of its correspondent with a deputy chief of a department of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP] Central Committee Dashyondon on the questions of part, renewal. Mr. Dashyondon in particular has stressed that the MPRP led the liberation movement of the Mongolian people, founded the people's state and the government, and initiated the present process of reconstruction and renewal in all spheres of social life in the country.

The party will continue to renew itself, strengthen its authority through collective wisdom and actions, highlighted Mr. Dashyondon.

Editorial Cited on Main Force of Restructuring

OW1602224890 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 0531 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 15 Feb (OANA-MONTSAME)—Today 90 thousand people or 14 percent of those working in the country's national economy are functionaries; in other words, every seven are engaged in administrative activity, but not in the production sphere, notes the national daily "UNEN" in its editorial entitled "Main Force of the Restructuring".

The main forces, called upon to carry out the restructuring in all spheres of our social life, are the people, the personnel. However, not all of them are ready to get involved in the restructuring process. Many people do not only make contributions to the restructuring, but even hinder this process by continuing to uphold the out-dated administrative methods, monopolizing and imposing their views, bewaring of everthing new thus keeping defence position expecting instructions from the top, the "UNEN" writes. [sentence as received]

The daily emphasizes the need of resolutely reducing the cumbersome administrative apparatus and electing the personnel to leading posts, who are able to work efficiently. All party, state and public organizations should be aware of this, whose activities are to depend on their workers, the daily writes.

North Korea

U.S. Ambassador's Withdrawal Remarks Denounced

SK2002123090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1049 GMT 20 Feb 90

["Shameless Utterances To Perpetuate Occupation of South Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—U.S. Ambassador in Seoul Gregg at a dinner party with South Korean puppets in Taegu on February 19 cried that the United States would not withdraw its forces from South Korea as long as South Korean people "wanted" their presence, according to a report.

This openly revealed the intention of the U.S. imperialists to leave their aggression forces in South Korea for an indefinite period.

Now, the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from South Korea has become a demand of the times which cannot be stifled with anything.

Voices demanding their pullout are ringing ever louder in the United States itself.

This demand of the time and public opinion within and without have thrown into utter uneasiness the U.S. reactionary ruling circles which seek their permanent occupation of South Korea.

By letting Gregg, the "governor" of the colony, Menetrey, the field commander, and the defence secretary who visited South Korea some time ago cry against the withdrawal of the U.S. troops, the U.S. imperialists only exposed their intention to crush the argument for their withdrawal or "reduction" which is growing at home and abroad.

The U.S. imperialists should look squarely into the flow of the times and immediately take their aggression troops out of South Korea.

U.S. Exercises Decried as 'Hysteric War Games'

SK2002122290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—The Pacific Air Force Command of the U.S. imperialists aggression forces February 17 sent formations of "F/A-18" pursuit-assault planes based on the carrier "Midway" to the air above South Korea to join formations of fighter-bombers belonging to the Air Force of the U.S. imperialists aggression forces occupying South Korea in an aerial exercise as part of the criminal "Team Spirit-90" joint military manoeuvres, according to military sources.

The Japan-based "EA-6B" electronic jamming plane was involved in the exercise.

The U.S. imperialists brought scores of large transport planes "C-130" and "C-141" carrying a huge military strength of ground, naval and air forces and great quantities of combat equipment to South Korea day and night from February 16 to 18 from their aggression bases in the Pacific.

Earlier, on February 13, they brought formations of "A-4" and "A-6" assault planes and formations of "AV-8" vertical take-off and landing planes into the sky above South Korea from their overseas aggression base to stage exercises for surprise strikes at targets in the nothern half of Korea in coordination with the "F-16" fighter-bombers belonging to the Air Force of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea.

On the same day, the South Korean puppets mobilized scores of helicopters in airlifting puppet army troops to an operational zone.

A total of over 400 warplanes flew over South Korea in the military exercises on February 13 alone.

Artillery pieces, tanks, armoured cars and heavy offensive weapons were also massively hurled into the reckless exercises.

The hysteric war games of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets fully reveal their increased frenzy in their moves to realise their wild aggressive designs against the North.

NODONG SINMUN Assails U.S. 'Hipocrisy'

SK2102052990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 21 Feb 90

["Occupier Under 'Peace' Mask"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 21 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the endless string of tricks performed by the U.S. imperialists to evade the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea.

The news analyst says:

Military and diplomatic officials of the United States and the South Korean puppet clique at working-level talks in Hawaii in January claimed that it was necessary to keep the U.S. troops in South Korea at the present level as long as the situation remains tense around the Korean peninsula.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney at a recent press conference in Japan asserted that the United States would maintain the policy of keeping the U.S. forces in South Korea in the future, mumbling about "military threat" from socialist countries in Asia.

Commander of the U.S. forces in South Korea Menetrey said that the U.S. troops in South Korea should not be reduced because their cut would accelerate arms race in Asia.

These are shameless remarks to justify the U.S. military occupation of South Korea under the pretext of "peace."

It is nothing but the Asia-Pacific strategy of U.S. imperialism that aggravates the situation in and around the Korean peninsula and threatens peace in this part of the world.

With a view to invading the DPRK and other socialist countries and realising its ambition for world supremacy, the United States is directing the sharp edge of its attack to Asia, particularly to northeast Asia, and incessantly increasing the tensions in this region.

Notably, South Korea has turned into the largest nuclear arsenal in the Far East, regarded by U.S. imperialism as the "key area" to its Asia-Pacific strategy.

It is the height of hypocrisy and shamelessness for the U.S. imperialists to cry for "peace and security" in Asia and describe their military occupation of South Korea as something for peace in this region.

Their ulterior intention is to keep their aggression forces including nuclear weapons in South Korea for an indefinite period under a preposterous pretext, step up war preparations, ignite a nuclear war and realise their Asia-Pacific strategy and global strategy.

The United States must discard the ridiculous sophism and immediately withdraw all its aggression forces including nuclear weapons from South Korea, Asia and the Pacific.

U.S. Putting Pressure on Seoul To Open Markets

SK2102005790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—The U.S. secretary of agriculture and the chief of the trade mission on February 14 put pressure upon the South Korean puppet clique again to open markets for U.S. beef and communications and take steps to protect U.S. intellectual property rights, according to a report.

The U.S. imperialists strongly urged the puppet clique to promptly comply with their demands, forcing it to announce a timetable for opening its market.

All economic fields of South Korea are on the point of bankruptcy due to the U.S. imperialists continued pressure for market opening.

South Korean people and public circles are condemning U.S. economic pressure and demanding its withdrawal, but the puppet clique are serving the U.S. imperialists more faithfully in the efforts to intensify colonial plunder.

The puppet clique, succumbing to their master's pressure, reveal their true color as stooges of the U.S. imperialists.

Pyongyang Issues Statement on Failed Meeting

SK2102012390 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[A statement issued by the North side's preparatory committee of a consultative meeting for national reunification to the South Korean authorities as read by announcer]

[Text] As is already known, the Republic Government, political parties, and organizations, at a joint meeting in September last year, proposed the convocation of a national reunification consultative meeting that would involve representatives of the authorities, political parties, and organizations from the North and the South. Such a meeting would formulate the nation's common road to reunification, and it was suggested to the South side that the first meeting should be held in Pyongyang on 20 February this year.

Today, when the entire nation's desire for reunification is mounting more than ever before, our proposal for the convocation of a consultative meeting for reunification is the most positive and reasonable step to hasten the cause of national reunification.

All fellow countrymen have sincerely expected a consultative meeting for national reunification to be convened as scheduled as a result of the realization of our proposal.

Proceeding from a single desire for a breakthrough in national reunification this year, the first year of the 1990's, in consideration of the unanimous desire of the people at home and abroad, we have made every sincere effort for convening a consultative meeting for national reunification.

We proposed to hold preliminary talks for a consultative meeting on or about 17 January in Panmunjom, formed a delegation to the preliminary talks, set up the North side's preliminary committee, and have made every effort for the preparation for the first conference of a consultative meeting for national reunification.

Even at the time when preliminary talks in Panmunjom in January were not held as scheduled, again we took measures to urge the consultative parties concerned in South Korea to come out to the talks.

Despite the great interest at home and abroad and our sincere efforts, the consultative meeting for national reunification has ultimately failed to be convened as scheduled. This is entirely attributable to the antidialogue and antireunification separatist position of the South Korean people in authority.

The South Korean people in authority, who have no will to realize a national agreement regarding a means for reunification, have had negative attitudes, saying, as ever, that the proposal for a consultative meeting is aimed at creating social chaos and internal dissension in South Korea, even without sitting down with us. Still worse, they ignored general practices which the North and the South have kept and repeatedly refused to accept a letter which contained a patriotic and people-loving proposal concerning our proposal for convocation of a consultative meeting for national reunification.

In connection with such unreasonable attitudes of the South Korean people in authority, the people at home and abroad are raising their voices of protest and denunciation. This is too reasonable.

We have not forgotten that a high-ranking person in authority of South Korea said that the question of reunification is a national issue and that he can positively accept our proposal for reunification. If his remarks are not aimed at deceiving the people at home and abroad, there can be no pretext and condition which prevents South Korean people in authority from meeting in a dialogue forum with us.

The South Korean people in authority are babbling about the Korean commonwealth unification formula. If this formula genuinely reflects the will of national reunification, then why on earth should they be afraid of and opposed to coming out to a consultative meeting and receiving just appraisal from the entire nation?

Although we have recognized that a proposal for the founding of the democratic confederal republic of Korea is the best way to settle a question of national reunification at the earliest date and reliably under the concrete reality of our country, we have repeatedly said that we are in readiness to discuss the ways for reunification set forth by the South Korean authorities, political parties, and organizations.

The representatives of authorities and political parties and organizations in the North and the South, the parties concerned, should first of all take sincere stance, sit down together, narrow differences, and find common features in the quest for the nation's common way of reunification, since they put forward different proposals for reunification.

However, the South Korean authorities not only blindly rejected the consultative meeting itself to define the nation's common road to reunification, but they also turned their faces away from our proposal to convene the meeting by staging the antidialogue and antireunification "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercises in collusion with foreign forces.

All these facts clearly prove that all the so-called dialogue and reunification talked about by the South Korean authorities are a sham and false, and for all intents and purposes, they are a ruse to mislead public opinion at home and abroad.

The North side's preparatory committee of a consultative meeting for national reunification strongly denounce in the name of all Korean people the antidemocratic act of the South Korean authorities for opposing the convocation of a consultative meeting for the formulation of the nation's common way of reunification and persistently pursuing confrontation and division.

Today, at a time when we are welcoming the hopeful nineties, no one should delay the reunification of the fatherland and a breakthrough must be made in the efforts for independent and peaceful reunification this year in which falls the 45th anniversary of the liberation of the fatherland.

If a new phase of the reunification of the fatherland is to be opened this year, a North-South top-level conference involving the heads of the authorities and the leaders of political parties should be convened to consult the matters of pulling down the barrier of division and realizing free travel and complete opening between the North and the South and, at the same time, a consultative meeting for national reunification should be arranged as soon as possible to formulate the nation's common road to reunification.

If the representatives of authorities and political parties and organizations in the North and the South sit face to face and give priority to discussing ways to realize a way for reunification, we believe that even though there are differences in opinion, both sides can at least examine ways toward common features and mutual agreements.

The South Korean authorities must not look away from the just voice of the world's people forever, who anticipate the ardent wish for reunification of the whole nation and peaceful settlement of the Korean issue, but must give up the outdated confrontation concept and two Koreas policy, and take a sincere attitude toward a dialogue for reunification, if they want a dialogue.

We hold that, in token of this attitude, the South Korean authorities should, first of all, discontinue the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercises going against the North-South dialogue for reunification, express their readiness to pull down the concrete wall built in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line, admitting its existence.

We also hold that they should discard their anachronistic policy of depending on outside forces to live under the protection of the United States and take a courageous step to have the U.S. aggression forces withdrawn from South Korea.

We will continue to make sincere efforts to convene a consultative meeting for national reunification as desired by the whole nation.

[Dated] 20 February, 1990 Pyongyang

'Repressive Campaign' in South Denounced

SK2002054490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0522 GMT 20 Feb 90

["Fascist Rampage To Stifle Mass Movement"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—The puppet home ministry called an "emergency meeting for measures for public peace" on February 16, after which came the announcement that 8,300 mobile teams would be formed of 500,000 members of the paramilitary "civilian defence corps" in Seoul and be put on patrol duty round the clock allegedly to "round up the culprits of a chain of arson cases."

Meanwhile, the puppet defence minister issued a repressive order to mobilize the puppet army in the crackdown on the people under the pretext of "assistance to the roundup of the arsonists." The puppet police headquarters, Seoul police bureau and prosecution also issued repressive orders.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says:

Seoul and all other parts of South Korea are covered with large repressive forces involving the puppet army, police, prosecution and the "civilian defence corps."

Although the No Tae-u group claims that this step is designed to put an end to the cases of arson, murder and robbery which occur in an unbroken chain, it is a sheer lie to conceal the ulterior purpose.

The news analyst continues:

The struggle of students and people against the "political restructuring" for one-party show of the military fascists is gaining in strength in South Korea.

The No Tae-u group's repressive campaign involving even the puppet army and paramilitary forces is an open reactionary offensive to intensify the "security-oriented rule," quell the people's struggle assuming dramatic dimensions after the "political restructuring" and bridge over the ruling crisis.

The fascist group is making the last-ditch efforts to stifle the student movement and the opposition democratic movement at the point of the bayonet and maintain the power system through the alliance of ultra-rightist reactionary forces.

The No Tae-u group must give up the foolish repressive campaign and step down before meeting with a stronger resistance from the people.

* Reaction to Eastern Europe Reform Movement

902C0118A Seoul WOLGAN CHUNGANG in Korean Feb 90 pp 374-381

[Article by Assistant Professor Hajime Izumi of Shizuoka Prefectural University, Japan: "Will the East European Winds Blow Over North Korea?"]

[Text] This is an analytical report by a Japanese expert on North Korean affairs who visited North Korea twice in 1989, in April and November.

"Let the East European Winds Blow Over Pyongyang"

In view of the "desocialization" tendency developing in the East European arena, the view may be quite natural

that "the only ideological enclaves remaining on the earth now are North Korea, Cuba, and the subcontinent of China."

The process of voluntary dissolution of socialism among East European communist states with Poland and Hungary in the van reached its climax late last year with the new developments in Hungary. The Ceausescu regime, which along with North Korea and China had been regarded as the most closed society, was brought down by the spontaneous civil revolution of the masses, and as expected, this event seems to have given a great shock to China and North Korea.

However, when the whirlwinds of reform and opening which began to blow in the mid-eighties, with the Soviet perestroyka as its origin, hit the frozen continent of Eastern Europe, South Korea began to hope in its heart that similar revolutionary developments would also take place in North Korea.

On the threshold of the last decade of the 20th century, one wonders if North Korea—which has pursued the most exclusionary line in the world under the same leader and as a country, Korea, has remained divided for nearly half a century—will be able to stage great revolutionary changes of reform and opening similar to those in Eastern Europe. Needless to say, this wishful anticipation and expectation is not entertained only in South Korea, the other part of the divided country. But this expectation on the part of South Korea cannot but be interpreted as being of particular significance.

In the latter half of 1989, when developments in Eastern Europe were spreading, various large placards began to appear on the main streets in the heart of Seoul, and these placards attest to how eagerly South Korea hoped North Korea would change.

True, most of the placards, including "Let the East European winds spread to Pyongyang," "The Chuche ideology is at an end, Kim Il-song is finished," and "Let the North Korean brethren share the freedom we enjoy," were put up by anticommunist organizations. But these placards alone are sufficient to surmise how eagerly South Koreans expect changes and opening in North Korea.

Currently, South Korea seems to anticipate that the developments in Eastern Europe will have an extensive impact on the economic, social, and cultural life of North Korea, on inter-Korean relations, and on North Korea's foreign policy. This outlook and anticipation is nothing more than an optimistic wishful thinking, not based on any careful analysis of the internal situation in North Korea and its policies.

Stepped Up Education in Superiority of Socialism

I visited North Korea twice last year (1989), in April and November.

The first time I visited North Korea for 2 weeks beginning 3 April. During my stay there, I exchanged views with numerous officials on wide-ranging subjects. I met with officials of many research organizations beginning with the Association of Social Scientists of Korea, my sponsor, and including the Chuche Science Research Institute, the Academy of Social Sciences, the Reunification Issue Research Institute, the International Affairs Research Institute, the Research Institute for Disarmament and Peace. I also met with officials of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, Kim Il-song University, NODONG SIMUN, and KCNA [Korean Central News Agency].

My second visit to North Korea which lasted for a week beginning 3 November coincided with President Kim Il-song's secret visit to China, but I had no inkling whatsoever of this secret visit although I was in Pyongyang. His unofficial visit lasted for 7 days beginning 5 November, and in that period I was staying in Pyongyang as a member of the "visiting group of the East Asian Subcommittee of the Japanese Society of International Political Science."

When I visited North Korea last April as a member of the "visiting academic group of the American Fletcher School," I was awfully busy collecting information on North Korea's perception of the international situation. During my second visit last November, I had an ample opportunity to hear the opinions of North Korean scholars and senior party officials not only on Japan-North Korea relations but also on the developments in Eastern Europe. Accordingly, my visit to North Korea on these two occasions was very useful in my understanding of North Korea.

Will North Korea change after all? Will the armistice line running across the country crumble eventually? Is it possible that the voluntary process of disintegration of the establishment will occur in North Korea also as in Eastern Europe? Will the North and the South be able to make their dream of reunification come true during the last years of the 20th century?

To state the conclusion first, it is hard to expect that the Korean peninsula will usher in an era of change in the early part of the 1990's at least, as Eastern Europe is doing now. To help with the reader's understanding, it is necessary to examine the internal trends in North Korea and the views of the North Korean leadership, including Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, on the current international situation.

It seems that the North Korean leaders were very uneasy about the worldwide "desocialization" trends which began to accelerate with the installation of the Gorbachev.

At a gathering of responsible WPK [Workers Party of Korea] functionaries on 15 July 1986, Kim Chong-il issued a statement entitled "On Several Questions Arising in Indoctrination in the Chuche Ideology."

The first two parts of this three-part statement were made public at home and abroad in July 1987, but the

third was not published even in North Korea until January 1989. But this third part, which stresses the superiority of socialism, has the most interesting substance among the three.

Chuche Ideology Redefined in Terms of Sociopolitical Organism

In the statement Kim Chong-il said: "The fundamental superiority of the socialist system over the capitalist system should not be considered only from the point of view of which system is more advantageous in developing the economy. When some temporary difficulty arises in socialist construction for one reason or another, those with such a view point will come to entertain an illusion about capitalism, thinking as if the socialist system itself had some contradictions and shortcomings." (Kim Chong-il, "On the Basis of the Chuche Ideology," Pyongyang, KCNA, 15 January 1989, p 172)

This statement may be regarded as implying that in managing the economy effectively and proficiently, capitalism is superior to socialism. It may also be a manifestation of the uneasiness felt about the efforts in China, the Soviet Union, and other socialist countries to carry out domestic reforms by introducing capitalist elements.

After the Kim Chong-il statement, North Korea redefined the chuche ideology by using the conception of "sociopolitical organism," and began to intensify indoctrination in the superiority of the socialist system, defiantly turning its back on the international trend toward desocialization.

As pointed out earlier, during my week-long stay in North Korea in early November, I exchanged views with North Korean experts on international relations surrounding the Korean peninsula. My impression obtained through these exchanges was as expected that "North Korea will not change."

It was not that North Korea did not know of the series of recent breathtaking developments in Eastern Europe from the beginning, nor that it completely ignored them.

As I noticed during my first visit last April, North Korean experts and so-called leading cadres had a far more intimate knowledge of what was happening in the international arena than we had expected.

Unlike ordinary people, cadres had unique sources of information accessible only to them. KCNA (the publisher of CHAMGO TONGSIN [NEWS REFERENCES]) translates important foreign news reports into Korean and periodically distributes them among party cadres as CHAMGO TONGSIN.

During my first visit to North Korea last April, I was able to obtain and read the 20 April 1989 edition of CHAMGO TONGSIN in Pyongyang. CHAMGO TONGSIN, published in the A-4 size, was very much similar to "NEWS REFEREMCES" published by the Chinese news agency XNA [Xinhua News Agency].

North Korea's CHAMGO TONGSIN has the title of the publication (CHAMGO TONGSIN) and the name of the publisher (KCNA) printed in the top center and the bottom center of the cover, respectively, and the words "Only for Cadres" are printed in red ink on the top left corner.

In principle, CHAMGO TONGSIN is distributed to cadres only. But, in practice, North Korean scholars are allowed to subscribe to it, and it is also distributed to foreign diplomats stationed in Pyongyang.

The contents of CHAMGO TONGSIN are divided into two sections, "South Korea" and "International." Articles in the "South Korea" section mostly consist of monitored reports of KBS, MBC, and CBS radio stations in South Korea.

Minimizing East European Developments in the Mind
The "International" section carries translated foreign news, particularly dispatches from Japan. The ratio of the "South Korea" section to the "International" section in terms of space was about 1:2.

KCNA seems to be playing the dual role of publishing and explaining North Korea's policy to readers at home and abroad and of collecting information on the domestic situation in South Korea and on the international situation and distribute such information to the elite in North Korea.

The fact that CHAMGO TONGSIN is a main source of information for the whole leading stratum in North Korea is of particular significance because the contents of information it carries are the undoctored translations of various original foreign news dispatches, thus making vital information available to its readership.

Accordingly, it appears that leading cadres not only are fully aware of the objective facts about the upheavals in Eastern Europe but also attentively watching the flow of events with a "sense of crisis."

Nevertheless Pyongyang's experts seem to be of the opinion that the effect of the developments in Eastern Europe on North Korea is "relatively minor" or "can be contained to a minimum." Needless to say, they have their own reasons for thinking so.

To be sure, the crumbling of the Berlin wall was a shock to North Korea. North Korea cannot afford to make light of the intensifying efforts on the part of South Korea to induce North Korea to open its door, with the fall of the Berlin wall as a momentum.

In his radio address on 11 December 1989, President No Tae-u expressed his view that "the current changes taking place in Eastern Europe indicates that the more rigid an establishment, the faster it crumbles, and from this point of view, North Korea will not adhere to its isolation."

No doubt this kind of pressure is a headache for Pyongyang. However, we need to remind ourselves of the fact

that although the Korean peninsula and Germany are both divided states, the problems confronting them are greatly different in nature.

East and West Germany normalized their relations by signing a basic treaty in December 1972, and in September in the following year, joined the United Nations as two separate states, thus entering into a complete state of "peaceful coexistence."

In this respect, the situation on the Korean peninsula is totally different. Despite the numerous inter-Korean dialogues in the past, the road to institutionalizing a "peaceful coexistence" like Germany is still far off. What is more, expecting a simultaneous admission of North and South Korea into the United Nations remains an unrealistic scenario.

North Korea Views Changes in Eastern Europe From Three Angles

The sudden crumbling of the Berlin wall was an inspiring historic event resulting from a long history of peaceful coexistence between East and West Germany. To put it another way, it was only made possible in the context of travel between East and West Germany involving millions of people in recent years.

It is quite obvious to everyone that a similar great transition will not take place on the Korean peninsula which lacks such an experience. Amid an active exchange of travel based on peaceful coexistence, the people of East Germany come to be keenly aware of the wealth and freedom of West Germany, and upon realizing this, they wanted the Berlin wall to be removed.

It goes without saying that as things stand now, it would not be so easy to effect a similar change on the Korean peninsula. It is most certain that Pyongyang is fully aware of the background behind the fall of the Berlin wall. We also need to emphasize that to North Korea, Eastern Europe is an "entity far away" geographically. Precisely for this reason, chances are practically nil that the dramatic changes in Eastern Europe will induce changes in North Korea.

It seems that North Korea is interpreting the current waves of desocialization sweeping Eastern Europe from three angles, namely, whether these waves will: 1) endanger the security of North Korea; 2) give a direct shock to the North Korean society; 3) hamper the reunification of Korea.

For this reason, the geographical relationship between Eastern Europe and North Korea assumes a great significance. For example, supposing Eastern Europe launches itself upon the road of capitalism, it can be assumed that this shift, unlike developments in the Soviet Union and China which are nearby, would immediately threaten the security of North Korea. Moreover, the door of North Korean society is closed so tight that the wave of democracy engulfing Eastern Europe can hardly reach the North Korean masses directly.

In this respect, North Korea is different from Eastern European countries which with contiguous borders, exercise influence on each other. Accordingly, despite the fact that while countries in Eastern European are strengthening political ties with South Korea, North Korea does not see this fraternization as an important immediate factor and that will tend to perpetuate the division of the Korean peninsula.

Therefore, what is important after all to North Korea is the trend in the Soviet Union and China. It is not easy for us to understand, but in the mind of North Korea, if China and the Soviet Union should enter into political relations with South Korea, it would signify the perpetuation of "two Koreas" but a similar course taken by North Korea's other allies will not be of too much significance.

In the final analysis, North Korea can minimize the shock from the changes in Eastern Europe, in its mind at least. In other words, the effect of developments in Eastern Europe is weak compared with the shock from the changes in China and the Soviet Union. It seems to me that this perception of reality explains why during their discussions with me, experts in Pyongyang showed a more mild reaction than expected [to the developments in Eastern Europe].

North Korea Worried About Two Scenarios

Seen from this point of view, the Soviet Union could be said to be the most powerful entity capable of giving a shock to North Korea. It is a fact that North Korea feels pressured by Gorbachev's vigorous pursuit of perestroyka, because his reform movement boldly introduces elements of capitalism.

In April, North Korean experts refrained from making any direct comment on the Soviet reform movement using the "principle of noninterference in each other's internal affairs" as an excuse. But in November, they made remarks strongly indicating that there was a great possibility that the Soviet Union would take the road to capitalism. This shift in the response of North Korean experts quite impressed me.

I could read in this shift North Korea's increased feeling of uneasiness that during these six months perestroyka accelerated, increasing more than ever the possibility that the Soviet Union would attempt a wholesale remodeling of socialism.

In addition, North Korea can hardly ignore the fact that the Soviet approach to South Korea in the past several months has been surprising, going beyond any previous expectation, and voices are growing louder and louder predicting that it will not be long before the Soviet Union finally establishes political relations with South Korea. On 8 December 1989 the ROK and the USSR announced their agreement on exchanging consulates between the two countries.

To North Korea, the establishment of diplomatic relations between the ROK and the USSR will mean not only that "reunification will become more remote" but also that the influence of the Soviet Union will spread all over the Korean peninsula. What is more, its impact will be much greater, beyond comparison with the desocialization process in Eastern Europe. It may be safe to say that North Korea already considers the anticipated establishment of diplomatic relations between the ROK and the USSR as a realistic scenario, and takes this scenario as "the irreversible current of the times."

Accordingly, North Korea seems to be consoled by the assumption that "China, another neighbor, will not take a course similar to that which is being pursued by the Soviet Union." North Korea fears these two scenarios most: 1) the simultaneous admission of North and South Korea into the United Nations or the admission of South Korea alone; 2) a cross-recognition of North and South Korea by the United States, Japan, China, and the Soviet Union. And there is no possibility whatsoever of China approving these scenarios.

During a press conference in Beijing on 18 November of last year, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman stated that "we are opposed to the admission of South Korea alone into the United Nations because it would not be good for the reunification of South Korea [as published]," thus making it clear that China will exercise its veto power if this question is brought before the UN Security Council.

It is a well known fact that China has long expressed its position that it is against a cross-recognition of North and South Korea. What is important in this connection is that China is not only taking this posture as support for the North Korean position. Rather, it seems that China has maintained its negative position on the admission and cross-recognition issues by linking them to its own problems. As long as North Korea adheres to the principle of "one Korea," China is against the seating of North and South Korea in the United Nations and also against a cross-recognition of North and South Korea because the former option would lead to the danger of readmitting Taiwan into the United Nations, and the latter option would promote the independence of Taiwan.

In the final analysis, to maintain the principle of "one China," Beijing will have to continue to support the North Korean position.

Caution Needed in Inducing Opening of North Korea

Supposing the Soviet Union shifts its official position to approving South Korea's lone admission into the United Nations, the admission will not take place as long as China is against it.

What is more, even if ROK-USSR diplomatic relations are normalized, a cross-recognition will not be realized unless China establishes diplomatic relations with South Korea. As long as no important change occurs in China's posture, changes in the Soviet Union will be regarded as being within an "admissible scope" as far as North Korea is concerned.

This is all the more so in view of the schism that has reopened in the wake of the Tiananmen incident.

For this reason, it is logical to think that contrary to the expectation in the Western world, for the time being the waves of shock from the Soviet Union as well as from Eastern Europe will not be enough to force North Korea to change. This observation may not necessarily be wrong since it is questionable whether under the present circumstances, if Pyongyang actively chose the road toward opening and reform it would be conducive to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

As I realized through my visit to North Korea on two occasions in the past nine months, any attempt to induce North Korea immediately to opening its society is a matter which should be weighed very carefully, and it should not be made.

It is possible that because the closed society has been maintained so effectively, the North Korean people are satisfied with their present lives to a certain extent, and if they are dissatisfied, their grumbling is simply contained, giving no outward manifestation in any concrete action.

However, it will be a different matter if North Korea begins to pursue the course of opening to the outside world like China, the Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe. We can never ignore the possibility that when the North Korean society comes to have what they call a "horizontal axis of reference" allowing a comparison between their own living standard and those of foreign countries, dissatisfaction will erupt at a single stroke. When this happens the North Koreans will have confirmation of the existence of the "affluent Republic of Korea" built by their brethren immediately below the armistice line.

When the North Koreans view the economic gap between North and South as a reality, there is an ample possibility that it will give rise to unrest in the North Korean society.

It is possible that demand for desocialization will suddenly become vocal as in East European countries. In addition, no one can preclude the possibility that the North Korean leadership will take an oppressive attitude to forestall unrest.

In the worst case, tension between North and South may become aggravated due to this attitude.

Aside from whether or not the entire North Korean economy is in trouble, it is undeniable that North Korea falls far behind the rest of the world in terms of the people's living standard.

This is indirectly borne out by the fact that since last summer Pyongyang has been making concentrated efforts to boost the output of consumer goods.

For this reason, it may not be an exaggeration to say that at last the North Korean leadership has begun to exert sincere efforts to improve the people's standard of living. If so, it is necessary for the ROK and the Western world not to apply excessive pressure for opening and desocialization on North Korea at this stage. What should be taken into consideration first is none other than the question of ways for maintaining peace and security on the Korean peninsula. We have to understand that for North Korea, how to improve the people's standard of living without allowing for any appreciable opening of the society is a difficult choice to make.

In my opinion, it seems that while hoping that the scope of opening to the outside world will increase with improvement in the people's standard of living, the West should rather take the stance of indirectly promoting this moderate change. Then, and only then, will the way be paved for establishing peace and security on the Korean peninsula as an established institution.

Cuban Ambassador Conveys Greetings at Reception

SK2102052790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 21 (KCNA)—Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega hosted a reception at his embassy on February 20.

Invited there were Yon Hyong-muk, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and premier of the administration council; Choe Tae-pok, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Kim Hyong-u, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee; and other officials concerned.

Speaking at the reception, Juan Jose Leon Vega noted that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is developing and enriching the revolutionary idea of the great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song and wisely leading socialist construction to register enormous achievements.

Pointing out that in his answers to questions raised by the general director of the Cuban Paper GRANMA Comrade Kim Chong-il taught that to strengthen the party and enhance its leadership role in the present period when the revolutionary situation is very grim and complex is a particularly important matter, the Cuban ambassador said his teaching is displaying ever greater vitality with the passage of time.

Denouncing the South Korean puppets and the Yankee troops for staging again the "Team Spirit" military exercises against the DPRK, he declared that with no amount of attempts can the enemy subjugate the Cuban and the Korean people who are triumphantly advancing without interruption under the banner of socialism.

If the South Korean puppet clique truly want Korea's reunification, they must show it by pulling down the barrier and ensuring free travel and complete opening between the North and the South, he said, and stated: Cuba which remains faithful to the principles of solidarity and internationalism fully supports the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

He conveyed greetings of best wishes of the Cuban people and Communist Party to Comrade Kim Chong-il on his birthday.

Speaking next, Yon Hyong-muk said the peoples of the two countries are making proud successes in socialist construction by pressing ahead with the revolution and construction consistently and invariably even under the grim circumstances in which they stand in direct confrontation with the U.S. imperialists, because they are guided by outstanding great leaders.

No matter how desperately the U.S. imperialists may try in their anti-Cuba moves they cannot frighten the heroic Cuban people who are closely rallied behind Comrade Fidel Castro, their supreme commander, with the conviction of the justice of their cause, nor can they block the road ahead of the Cuban revolution which is guided by one will and one purpose, he declared.

Referring to all the more malicious attempts of the U.S. imperialists to militarily threaten Korea and Cuba which are advancing beneath the banner of socialism and to ideologically and culturally undermine them, he stressed that as long as they have outstanding leaders and the wise leadership of the great parties the peoples of the two countries would successfully build socialism, supporting and cooperating with each other more closely, no matter what trials may block their way.

Central African President Backs Reunification

SK2102050190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 21 (KCNA)—The new reunification proposal advanced by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address is a just and realistic proposal which makes it possible to more rapidly accelerate the reunification of the country, said Central African President Andre Kolingba, voicing full support for it, when he met the DPRK ambassador to his country on February 15.

He expressed satisfaction with the friendly relations between Central Africa and Korea which are developing favorably with every passing day.

WPK Congratulates JSP on Election Returns

SK2102005390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] sent a message of greetings to the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Socialist Party [JSP] on February 19, warmly congratulating the JSP on the significant victory

it has won in the elections to the House of Representatives with widespread support from the Japanese people.

The message says:

The great success made by your party in the lower house elections this time is a result of the realistic slogan it has put up in defence of the vital rights and interests of the Japanese people, of its vigorous struggle to carry it through and of the progressive struggle it has strenuously waged for peace against war and nuclear weapons.

Sincerely wishing your party greater success in its just, progressive activities for democratization and independence in Japan, we take this opportunity of expressing the belief that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between our two parties will grow stronger and develop in accordance with the idea of independence, friendship and peace.

WPK Receives Letter From U.S. Communist Party

SK2102005990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—The National Committee of the Communist Party of the United States of America in its solidarity letter to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] denounced the "Team Spiri-90" joint military exercises of the United States and the South Korean puppets.

Noting that the United States is staging the manoeuvres, ignoring the expectation and hope of the people of the world for an end to the cold war, peace and peaceful construction and detente, the letter brands these massive military exercises for a nuclear attack as a grave act of military confrontation.

It draws attention to the fact that the exercises are being staged at a time when the Democratic People's Republic of Korea put forward new proposals and initiatives for a progress toward detente and peace in the Korean peninsula.

It fully supports the proposal to pull down the barrier separating Korea into the North and the South advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

World Party Leaders Send Birthday Greetings

SK2102045390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 21 (KCNA)—Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from foreign party and party leaders on the occasion of his birthday.

The messages came from the Central Executive Committee of the People's National Congress of Guyana, General Secretary Jorge Del Prado and International Secretary Friddy Arana of the Central Committee of the Peruvian Communist Party, Alfredo Filomeno, general secretary of the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Peru, Chairman Vassos Lyssarides and Secretary General Takis Hadjidemetriou of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Cyprus and Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

They warmly congratulate Comrade Kim Chong-il on his birthday and express solidarity with the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people in the efforts for socialist construction and the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

They wish Comrade Kim Chong-il long life and good health.

Increasing Consumer Goods Production Stressed

SK2102063090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0007 GMT 18 Feb 90

[NODONG SINMUN 18 February editorial: "Let Us Actively Accelerate the Modernization of Light Industrial Plants"]

[Text] Rapidly increasing the production of the people's consumer goods by effectively utilizing the light industrial base, which our people have built through an arduous struggle of self-reliance, is an important task assigned to the light industry sector at present. Upholding the New Year's address of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the decision of the 17th plenary meeting of the sixth party Central Committee, we should keep the light industrial plants in full operation and produce more people's consumer goods of good quality. By so doing we can brilliantly realize our party's plan to provide the people with a more affluent material life.

An important issue here is to further modernize light industrial plants. Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, has noted: We ought to modernize light industrial plants to increase production to the utmost degree and to produce more people's consumer goods without investing many resources.

Further modernizing light industrial plants is an important requisite to bringing forth a new upturn in the production of the people's consumer goods by the effective utilization of the light industrial base already available.

Under the party's wise leadership, our light industry has made rapid progress, so that everything necessary for our people to eat, dress, use, and live is now produced and supplied in a self-sufficient manner. That we have built the chuche-oriented modern light industry, in which all the light industrial goods meet the needs of the people's lives wonderfully in a self-sufficient manner in our country which had been incapable of producing even a pencil before the national liberation in 1945, is the proud result our people have achieved in building a self-reliant national economy.

Today we have an honorable task to bring forth an epochal upturn in the production of the people's consumer goods, including fabrics and shoes, by developing light industry to a new higher stage based on the success already attained. To successfully carry out this task, it is important to further modernize the light industrial plants now available, although it is necessary for us to build more light industrial plants as well. Modernizing light industry is an important way to rapidly develop light industry based on up-to-date science and technology. We should modernize light industrial plants so that we can turn the available production capacity to the utmost degree and produce more people's consumer goods without investing a great deal of resources.

The modernization of light industrial plants is achieved through the struggle to implement our party's policy on technological revolution. We should vigorously push ahead with the technological revolution and actively realize the modernization of production processes so that we can produce more people's consumer goods of better quality at a more reasonable cost with less labor and raw materials and can relieve working people of arduous labor. We can solve the problem of boosting the quality of the people's consumer goods one stage higher, increasing the kinds of the consumer goods, and reducing the consumption rate of the raw materials and clothing materials by vigorously conducting the technological revolution and modernizing light industrial plants.

Most important in modernizing light industrial plants is for functionaries and working people of the light industrial sector to have a correct awareness of the party's policy on the technological revolution and to mobilize themselves ideologically for this work.

The technological revolution, together with the ideological revolution and the cultural revolution, is a strategic line of socialist construction put forth by our party. Therefore, the technological revolution is an important work which the functionaries and working people of all sectors and units should firmly adhere to and push ahead consistently. The functionaries and working people of the light industry sector should be mobilized ideologically to work for the technological revolution with the viewpoint and position that the technological revolution is an important task which they should take charge of and carry out without fail. In particular, the functionaries of the light industry sector should be aware that the technological revolution is an important political task designed to relieve working people of difficult and laborious work and to provide them with independent and creative living conditions. It is also designed to set up a plan to reform unreasonable production processes into reasonable and efficient ones, to augment defective processes, maintaining a proper balance between the basic production processes and the auxiliary production processes, and to push ahead vigorously.

Believing in one's own strength and living in a self-sufficient manner is the consistent principle which our party maintains in economic construction. There can be problems and difficulties in modernizing production facilities in the light industry sector, modernizing and making facilities high speed, and achieving the general mechanization, automation, and computerization of production processes. Despite these difficulties, our revolutionaries should maintain the work habit and revolutionary ethos of overcoming the difficulties without hesitation believing in their own strength.

The functionaries and working people of the light industrial sector should follow the example of the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle shown by the ten party members of Nakwon, and solve, with their own active struggle and efforts, the problems arising in making machine facilities modern and high-speed and achieving the general mechanization, automation, and computerization of production.

Technological revolution is mechanical revolution. The light industry sector should use the currently available mechanical facilities, technologically remaking them. It should accept (?new) modern facilities gradually, build standard plants of higher modernization level by sector and by region, and modernize all plants using them as examples. While trying to modernize mechanical facilities, they should not blindly desire only large ones or try to remake all mechanical facilities with high technology at the same time. Instead, they should carry out this work with small plants concurrently with large ones, with simple ones concurrently with complex ones, and with those of lesser technological level concurrently with those of higher technological level.

Strengthening the machine production base for light industry is an important requisite for accelerating the technological reconstruction of light industrial plants. The light industry sector should make intensive investment in the machine production bases already available and modernize them so that it can produce any light industrial facilities without difficulty. By so doing, it should make it possible to produce and supply by itself not only the mechanical facilities necessary for the modernization of light industry but also the [word indistinct] and parts.

Actively conducting a mass technological innovation movement is an important way to vigorously accelerate the technological revolution. The party organizations of all levels and functionaries of the light industry sector should intensify political work among the working people, scientists, and technicians so that they can all launch themselves into the technological innovation movement as one person, with high awareness that they are all masters of production and of technological innovation and can become the creators of new technology, experts of creative contrivance, and inventors.

The party organizations, in particular, should ensure that the scientists and technicians enhance their sense of responsibility and role in conformity with the demand of the era of technological revolution and strengthen their

creative cooperation with workers so that they can actively solve the scientific and technological problems in production and modernization. The party organizations should turn their interest to giving prominence to the producers, scientists, and technicians in the technological innovation movement, actively supporting their initiatives, and generalizing the successes attained. They should also conduct a vigorous struggle to oppose the technological mysticism, passivity, conservatism, and experimentalism that stand in the way of the mass technological innovation movement so that technological innovations can be made vigorously in all light industrial plants.

The purpose of modernizing light industry is to bring forth the light industrial revolution to provide the people with a more affluent and civilized life. Therefore, the technological revolution to bring forth a light industrial revolution should be assisted by the functionaries and working people of all sectors of the people's economy. All sectors and units of the people's economy should produce and supply in a timely manner the machine facilities, raw materials, and other materials for the light industry sector. They should also mobilize the scientific and technological force and provide good laboratories and medium experimental plants [chunggan sihom kongjang] so as to satisfactorily solve the scientific and technological problems arising in modernizing and applying science to light industry, and supply in a planned manner the facilities, materials, and other material and technological means necessary for scientific research work and for the introduction of advanced technology.

The machine industry sector, in particular, should develop new modern light industrial machine facilities and supply them in greater quantities; and the metal industry sector should produce and smoothly supply the steel goods necessary for the production of machine facilities and parts by specifications and qualities in a timely manner. By so doing, we should implement the technological revolution more vigorously in the light industry sector.

Thermal Power Production Rises During Month

SK2002100890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—Thermal power stations under the Power Industry Commission in February lifted the daily electricity output 183,000 kWh [kilowatt-hours] above the daily average of January.

The Pyongyang thermal power complex has actively invented and introduced many rational methods of operation to increase the electricity output with the existing workforce and equipment.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex remodelled the dust coal heating devices and actively applied valuable technical innovation proposals, thereby raising the combustion rate 2 percent up on last year and fulfilling the daily plan of electricity output at 103 percent while saving a large quantity of fuel at each generator.

The Sunchon, Chongjin and other thermal power stations are also topping their production quotas.

Production Up in North Hamgyong Province

SK1902211690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1529 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 19 (KCNA)—Output has leaped 9.7 percent in electric power, 61.2 percent in coal, 47.8 percent in iron headings, 26.5 percent in pig iron, 17.3 percent in steel and 21.8 percent in rolled steel in recent one month or more above the same period last year in North Hamgyong Province, a major industrial province of the country, according to data available.

Coal mines under the General Bureau of the Northern District Coal Industry have increased the amount of capital tunnelling 57 percent, preparatory tunnelling 27 percent and coal output 61.2 percent in the same period.

The Musan Mining Complex has boosted the output of iron headings 40 percent above the comparable time last year.

In recent one month or more the Songjin Steel Complex has lifted the rolled steel output 27 percent and the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex markedly raised the output of pig iron, steel and rolled steel as against the corresponding period last year.

Sinuiju Textile Mill Increases Output

SK2102005590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—A significant production upswing has been effected at the Sinuiju Textile Mill, a large textile producer of Korea.

Entering February the daily output has gone up 7 tons in yarn and 18,000 metres in fabrics from the daily average of January.

In January the workers there raised the output of yarn 70 percent and that of fabrics 60 percent above December last year.

They have saved a large amount of coal and materials while increasing production by updating the looms and introducing a rational method of going round them.

Many weavers of the mill had honored their assignments for textile production for the first quarter or the first half of the year as of February 15.

Potassic Fertilizer Complex Begins Testing

SK1802090990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0839 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 18 (KCNA)—Limekiln No. 1 of the gigantic Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex

under construction in the central western part of Korea started a test operation on February 16.

The trial operation of some other facilities of the dust coal, power transmission and transformer system and other allied processes was also carried out simultaneously.

Builders erected the large limekiln in a short time and kindled it by finishing in one month the assembling of more than 2,000 tons of equipment and over 1,500 tons of steel structures which had been expected to take six months and carrying out a vast amount of brick-laying for the kiln.

The complex which is taking shape as a reliable potassic fertilizer and light metal producer is one of the major objects to which efforts are directed this year.

'Unprecedented' Construction Program Under Way

SK2102045590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 21 Feb 90

["Bold and Ambitious Blueprint"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 21 (KCNA)—The construction of apartment houses for 50,000 households is going on under a bold and ambitious plan in Pyongyang.

It will be completed in a short period of two years (by the end of 1991).

The scale of the construction program of the capital for two years to come including dwelling houses for 50,000 families is 1.5 times that of hundreds of construction projects for the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students which were carried out in the recent three years. And this unprecedented program is 12.5 times the housing construction in Chollima Street in the early 1970s, over 16.5 times that of Nakwon Street in the mid-1970s and more than 3 times that of Munsu Street in the early 1980s.

When the housing construction for 50,000 families is completed, the capital city of Pyongyang will assume more grand and beautiful appearance and the superiority of our socialist system be more fully displayed.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"The construction of a large number of houses is a very important undertaking for providing the people with adequate conditions for a pleasant and secure life."

Comrade Kim Chong-il personally initiated the construction of flats for 50,000 households in Pyongyang, took all measures to vigorously push ahead with this vast project and powerfully aroused the whole party, the whole country and the entire people to the construction of the capital.

Towards the end of last year he saw mock-ups of the streets of these houses and indicated in detail the orientation and ways of building those streets magnificently and beautifully.

According to the grand blueprint unfolded by Comrade Kim Chong-il, the second-stage construction of Kwangbok Street, the construction of Naknang Street and other projects are now progressing on a gigantic scale.

Houses for more than 10,000 families are under construction in the second stage in Kwangbok Street in Mangyongdae district.

It is designed to build a circus school and other educational and cultural institutions and service facilities along with dwelling houses to go well with natural features of the district.

And Naknang Street equal to a whole city will take shape.

There will be built modern dwellings for nearly 20,000 households, educational and cultural establishment and service facilities and public buildings.

Each apartment house will be fairly big. It will mostly be hundreds of metres in length. Some of them will be 18 storied buildings accommodating 1,500 families.

The street will be built in a section of more than 4 kilometers extending from the Naknang Bridge leading to Youth Street in East Pyongyang to the Chungsong Bridge in the southern area of the city.

Its main avenue will be more than 120 metres in width.

When the street is completed, a great loop line of streets along the Rivers Taedong and Potong will make appearance in Pyongyang.

The construction of houses for 20,000 families is progressing in other districts of Pyongyang.

Rainbow Formed Above Secret Camp of Mt. Paektu

SK2102071390 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] A double rainbow appeared over the secret camp of Mt. Paektu in February. A mystical phenomenon, the beautiful rainbow formed several times in February over the secret camp of Mt. Paektu, the sacred land of the revolution.

Around 0930 on 1 February, a seven-color rainbow beautifully formed between the peak of Chong-il and the rock of sunrise. This rainbow, whose radius was comparatively large, had clear, bright colors and lasted a long time.

While the entire area of the secret camp was filled with joy because of the rainbow that appeared in the middle of winter, a double rainbow formed here on 12 February.

Around 0950 that morning, a land of great mystery opened when a double rainbow appeared as Sobaeksu Valley brightened suddenly. One of the rainbow's ends was anchored beside the home town house in the secret camp of Mt. Paektu and the other end rested in the Sobaeksu area, drawing a clear, bright, and gracious circle—with the peak of Chong-il in its center. It is a very rare phenomenon from a meteorological point of view as well, that the rainbow, which is often seen in summer, appeared in winter.

Clean water flows from the stream of Sobaeksu, unfrozen in this cold weather! The meteorologists are very curious, and wonder if the unprecedented warm weather in February of this year might have formed this mysterious scene of ecstasy.

The mystical rainbow appeared again around 1600 on 15 February. That day's rainbow, which colored the sky beautifully, with one of its ends taking root in the sunrise rock and the other end in the Sobaeksu area, was witnessed by many people. Witnesses included the visitors and the builders of the revolution's historic battlefields here. Those who witnessed the scene stated that the fact that the rainbow and the double rainbow appeared one after another in the secret camp of Mt. Paektu, the home town of the hearts of our people, in a severe winter is truly a legendary event. They added that nature is blessing the bright future of our fatherland where the bright star over Mt. Paektu shines on the nation in festive February.

South Korea

Delegate on Breakdown of North-South Contact

SK2102035290 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] In a telephone notice sent to the North Korean side today, Chae Mun-sik, senior delegate to the preparatory contact for North-South parliamentary talks, pointed out that by linking the Team Spirit exercise to parliamentary talks, the North Korean side was trying to halt the 11th contact for North-South parliamentary talks scheduled for tomorrow. Chae Mun-sik added that this position was an unjust attitude. He also urged the North Korean side to come to the preparatory contact as soon as possible.

In today's telephone notice to Chon Kum-chol, head of the North Korean delegation, Chae Mun-sik noted that the North Korean delegation unilaterally halted the preparatory contact for North-South parliamentary talks scheduled for tomorrow when it said in a statement 8 February that it would not go to the Panmunjom talks while the Team Spirit joint military exercise was being conducted. Senior delegate Chae Mun-sik added that this was very regrettable.

Seoul Rejects North's Proposal To Inspect Wall

SK2102042390 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0200 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Choe Pyong-po, spokesman of the National Unification Board, in a statement issued today said that the proposal to send groups to see the existence of a concrete wall is nothing but a deceptive tactic by the North to shift responsibility to our side for not realizing free visits and an open door policy. Choe Pyong-po dismissed this proposal, which was issued on 19 February under the name of An Pyong-su, director of the North Korean Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland.

In the statement, spokesman Choe Pyong-po, stressed that the North Korean side is aggravating North-South relations by putting forth the fictitious issue of a concrete wall, which proves that North Korea is still engrossed in the illusion of a revolution to communize the South. He also said that a genuine stumbling block to realizing free visits between the North and the South is a political barrier arising from the North Korean side's antinegotiative and hostile stand.

In addition, spokesman Choe urged the North Korean side to immediately stop activities of political propaganda which make foolish the expectations of those at home and abroad who desire peace and reunification, and urged it to sincerely respond to our side's efforts for improving the North-South relations.

He said the fact that a mere director of the secretariat of an auxiliary organ of the party, not a government organ, sent the telephone message to an ROK Cabinet member is an impolite act which violates the North-South Korean general practices and the spirit of mutual respect.

Dismisses 'Propaganda' Gambit

SK2102091590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0857 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 21 (YONHAP)—South Korea dismissed as a "political propaganda" gambit Wednesday [21 February] a North Korean proposal for 100 South Koreans to visit the truce village of Panmunjom to "jointly confirm the existence of a concrete wall in the Demilitarized Zone along with a North Korean team."

National unification board spokesman Choe Pyong-po issued a statement urging North Korea to immediately stop propagandizing and faithfully respond to the South's efforts to improve bilateral relations.

An Pyong-su, secretary-general of Pyongyang's Committee for Peaceful Unification of the Fatherland, in a telephone message Monday called on Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku to send a 100-member inspection team to Panmumjom on Feb. 26.

"Since Kim Il-song mentioned the wall in his New Year message, North Korea has made political offensives as if

there really were a barrier like the Berlin Wall on the South Korean side and used it as an excuse to hamper inter-Korean talks," Choe said.

"This is nothing but a deceptive trick by the North to try to transfer to us the responsibility for the failure to realize opening and free travel between the two Koreas," he charged.

The South Korean Government officially denies the existence of a concrete wall similar to the Berlin Wall but does admit that there are anti-tank barriers across the invasion routes used by North Korean troops during the Korean War.

The real obstacle to free travel is "the political wall erected by North Korea's intransigent and antagonistic attitudes, including its deployment of offensive arms in frontline areas, digging of infiltration tunnels and unilateral suspension of dialogue with South Korea," Choe said.

North Korea should not demand the removal of tank traps in the South as a precondition for opening and free travel but should accept Seoul's proposal for a revival of the joint supervisory groups of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) to identify and remove military structures in the Demilitarized Zone, he said.

He also urged North Korea to show interest in exchange and cooperation with the South by agreeing to a conference of the government authorities of the two Koreas.

Meanwhile, Chae Mun-sik, the South's chief delegate to the inter-Korean parliamentary talks, Wednesday urged North Korea to participate in the 11th preliminary contact scheduled for Thursday at Panmunjom.

North Korea, in a joint statement by its delegations to all forums of inter-Korean talks, declared on Feb. 9 they would not attend any inter-Korean meetings during the period of the South Korea-U.S. annual "Team Spirit" military exercise.

"North Korea's attempt to delay the inter-Korean parliamentary talks using the excuse of Team Spirit is a betrayal of the hopes of the entire 70 million Korean people for early realization of the parliamentary talks," Chae said in a telephone message to his North Korean counterpart, Chon Kum-chol.

"If your side suspends the preliminary contact, which has reached the final stage, citing an unrealistic reason, you cannot escape international criticism that you never intended to hold the talks from the beginning," he said.

Hyundai Founder Foresees North-South Ventures

SK2102075390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0656 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 22 (YONHAP)—South Korean magnate Chong Chu-yong, founder of the Hyundai Business Group, suggested on Wednesday that South-North Korean joint venture projects could be initiated in the near future.

Attending a breakfast seminar sponsored by a private academic organization, Chong said he understood that governments of both Koreas have approved all five projects, including the joint development of Mt. Kumgang, that he agreed on with North Korean authorities last year.

Chong visited North Korea in January last year as a guest of Ho Tam, a Politbureau member and chairman of the committee for peaceful unification of the fatherland, and exchanged a memorandum on the joint projects with Taesong Bank President Choe Su-kil. The projects also include the construction of shipbuilding and rolling stock plants in the eastern port of Wonsan and the joint production in Siberia of coke and halite.

Noting that the projects, except the Mt. Kumgang plan, were proposed by the North, Chong said the agreement was supposed to take effect as soon as both governments approved it.

He said he expects the projects to be realized in the near future because both governments recently approved them.

Hyundai sources said Chong plans to visit Pyongyang in May or June, accompanied by a feasibility survey team, to discuss the joint projects in detail.

A trip set for April last year was called off when South-North Korean relations suddenly deteriorated because of illegal visits to the North by several dissidents from South Korea.

PPD Asks for Free Tuning to DPRK Broadcasts

SK1802010090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung yesterday called for a bold decision by the government to allow South Koreans to freely tune into broadcasts of North Korea.

"If the No Tae-u regime earnestly intends to settle inter-Korean questions, it should take the initiative in permitting its people to freely watch TV and listen to radio broadcasts originating from North Korea," Kim said in a rally in Songnam, Kyonggi-do.

Kim's Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] organized the rally at the Citizen's Hall in Songnam, the second indoor gathering since the merger of the three political parties which left the PPD alone in the opposition camp.

To make headway in the South-North talks, PPD president Kim suggested, the "practice" of holding inter-Korean meetings at the truce village of Panmunjom come to an end and for the conferences, both preliminary and fulldress, to be held in Seoul and Pyongyang alternatingly.

Touching on his party's strategy for the struggle against the political realignment, Kim said that the PPD will strictly live up to the principle of staving off violence, sympathy to communism and anti-Americanism.

He reiterated the PPD's four-stage "peaceful" fight, that is, a publicity campaign for the cause of his party, a legal struggle in the Assembly, a nationwide campaign to collect signatures from 10 million people and seeking victory in the forthcoming local council elections.

Kim argued, "To have dialogues with North Koreans in confidence and pursue national unification, the government should achieve political stability and people's unity by championing the interests of workers, farmers and the poor in urban areas.

Kim Chong-il Personality Cult Examined

SK2002072090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0543 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 20 (YONHAP)—North Korea has never publicly stated that Kim Chong-il will succeed his father, President Kim Il-song, in the communist world's first hereditary transfer of power, but the personality cult surrounding the junior Kim is evidence enough of what is going on the hermit kingdom.

As in past years, the entire nation was swept by hysteria in a fever-pitch campaign to depict Kim's greatness on the occasion of his 48th birthday on Feb. 16.

"The education work to master Kim Chong-il's greatness" along with "the period for film showing in commemoration of Kim Chong-il's birth" and "a seminar to study ideologies to celebrate Kim Chong-il's birthday" were part of the clamor associated with the event, which is observed as a national holiday.

This year's birthday praises concentrated on wrapping the prince of hard-line Stalinism in accolades that touted his capability as a national leader to audiences at home and abroad, according to North Korea watchers in Seoul.

MINJU CHOSON, the organ of North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly and the State Council, in a political essay congratulating Kim, said, "To hold Comrade Kim Chong-il in high esteem as the great leader is the highest honor and happiness not only for the Korean people but also for all the people in the 20th century."

Use of the words "great leader" elicited a hasty guess that the 77-year-old president might abdicate his throne to his son in the immediate future since the junior Kim has until now been called only "dear leader" or "party center."

Pyongyang watchers here say the upgraded title, though it stops short of his father's august appellation, does mean one step up the ladder of succession for Kim Chong-il.

Until the mid-1980s, from 1974 when Kim's birthday celebration was shaping up, praise was lavished on his genius and personality rather than any political traits. During this period, the tightly controlled North Korean media extolled his erudition in culture and the arts as well as his filial piety.

Starting in 1987, he was described as an eminent ideological and theoretical leader, skilled in interpretation and development of his father's "chuche idea," a variant of Marxism-Leninism that stresses self-reliance, and as an excellent administrator who had showed his capability on the construction sites of the sports facilities for the world youth festival, held last summer in Pyongyang.

At the turn of this year, Kim Chong-il was proclaimed by the North Korean media as qualified to replace his father as a responsible leader for building socialism and reunification.

The media went so far as to report the successor-to-be was respected not only in other communist countries but also in the capitalist South, an indigestible nugget of news apparently aimed at the credulous North Korean population.

Recently, fliers congratulating the heir apparent on his birthday were found scattered on a couple of South Korean campuses and a placard with similar words of praise was hung from a building in a provincial city. The South Korean police, not unreasonably, see the hand of North Korea at work behind the acts.

Most South Koreans know Kim Chong-il better as an erratic film buff who ordered the kidnapping of a South Korean movie couple whom he admired so that they could make films for him. The pair, director Sin Sang-ok and his actress wife, Choe Un-hui, later fled North Korea and now live in the United States.

North Korea watchers here predict the transfer of power will take place in the seventh North Korean Workers' Party Congress, which is likely to be held in 1992, but an intensifying of the personality cult of the heir apparent of the Kim dynasty may have its second king sooner than the experts had imagined.

The personality cult of Kim Chong-il seems to have entered the stage of idolatry, with his virtual deification and the frequent fabrication of events associated with the prince.

In February 1987, North Korea launched a campaign to make everyone visit to a log cabin on Mt. Paektu, where the state myth-makers say Kim Chong-il was born in 1942. The same was done with Kim Il-song's birthplace.

North Korean experts here claim the junior Kim was born in the Soviet Union.

So far, 559,000 pilgrims, including 700 foreigners and 5,300 Koreans living abroad, have trekked up to the holy place, which the official guides say was a secret barracks for Kim Il-song when he was a fighter in the war of independence against Japan.

North Korean media is also trumpeting a nationwide search for slogans that suggests the freedom fighters in the North spent all their time writing messages on trees lauding Kim's family.

The official line is that the grafitti has just been uncovered because the paeans were written decades ago with oriental ink and it was only the recent discovery of a mystery chemical that made it possible to restore the letters and read the messages.

No explanation for all the fuss is needed since the slogans include some praising the little son of Kim Il-song, such as, "Long live the bright star over Mt. Paektu who will succeed independence fighter Gen. Kim Il-song."

An analyst in Seoul says the fanatic cult seems to be growing ever more entrenched as the winds of change sweep the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, but declines to predict if the North Korean leadership will be able to seal the doors to the outside world tight enough to keep out the draft.

U.S., Government Officials Review Defense Issues

SK2102085990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0827 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 21 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States began talks Wednesday on an agreement to remove several thousand of the American troops stationed here and on other bilateral security issues in a follow-up to U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney's visit to Seoul last week.

The four-member panel of Korean and U.S. officials had their first meeting over breakfast at the Korean foreign minister's residence in southern Seoul and discussed outstanding security issues as agreed during talks between President No Tae-u and Cheney on Feb. 15.

Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung and Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun represented Korea and U.S. Ambassador Donald Gregg and Gen. Louis Menetrey, commander of the 8th Army, rounded out the foursome.

It was agreed in the one-hour meeting to urge North Korea to take reciprocal steps to the down-scaling of the Korean-U.S. "Team Spirit" military drill, the closure of three U.S. air bases in Korea and the planned gradual reduction of U.S. ground forces here, said Kim Sam-hun, director of the Defense Ministry's American Bureau.

The four officials shared the view that despite the plans announced by Seoul and Washington, Pyongyang has not made any efforts to ease tension on the Korean peninsula through steps to build confidence, said Kim, who sat in on the talks.

Both sides agreed to take additional measures to build confidence and ease tension on the peninsula only when North Korea takes visible steps in response, he said.

The panel reviewed the security and military cooperation issues taken up at defense ministers' talks last week and reaffirmed that the cutback in U.S. troops here should be made in such a manner as not to erode the combat readiness of both the United States and South Korea.

The panel also reached general agreement on force adjustments and the possibility of concluding a memorandum of agreement on relocation of U.S. forces by the end of the first quarter of this year, the Combined Forces Command said.

Stressing the need to continue their talks in the form of periodic meetings, the four officials decided to have their next meeting in mid-March, the command said.

On Feb. 15, No and Cheney agreed to set up the panel to deal with concrete security issues, which include a possible change in the Korean-U.S. Combined Forces Command system and replacement of the American head of the delegation to the Military Armistice Commission meeting with North Korea with a South Korean officer.

No suggested operational control over South Korean troops in peacetime be transferred to Korea but revert to America in case of war.

During a four-day stay in Seoul last week, Cheney agreed with Yi in principle to pull 5,000 non-combatants out of Korea by 1993.

An increase in Korea's share of the defense burden, the relocation of the 8th Army Headquarters out of downtown Seoul and other detailed issues are still pending.

'Burden-Sharing,' U.S. Troop Pullout Studied

SK2002234990 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Feb 90 p 2

[Staff reporter Kim Chang-yong: "Koreans Prepared for Eventful Withdrawal of American Troops"]

[Text] In the past, youths shouting "Yankee, go home" have been given heavy penalty under the National Security Law aimed at punishing those with North Korean sympathies.

The stipulation remains valid but it seldom is put into practice now.

After all, government officials are publicly studying a gradual withdrawal of U.S. troops and in less than one week ago they sat down with American defense leaders in Seoul to discuss changes in the foreign military presence here. Few people either in or outside the government approve of the perpetual stationing of U.S. servicemen here.

The changes may seem drastic, but they are not surprising at all.

Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung has said several times, most recently in a television interview last week, that as a sovereign state, Korea does not want U.S. troops here "forever."

Koreans' general perception of the troops, too, is believed to have changed.

Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun told Kwangju citizens on Feb. 5, just nine days before the start of Seoul-Washington negotiations on the withdrawal, that the prior goal of U.S. servicemen in South Korea is the maintenance of peace in Northeast Asia as opposed to stability on the Korean peninsula. Kwangju residents are particularly unsettled about the presence of the foreign troops because of their conviction that the U.S. military leadership in Korea authorized local commanders to use violence in suppressing protesters in their hometown in May 1980.

Amb. Hong Sun-yong, former assistant foreign minister, says, "It is natural for a sovereign nation to take complete responsibility for its own security no matter how much it costs.

"It is timely that President No Tae-u suggested in a meeting with (U.S. Defense Secretary) Dick Cheney that we regain operational control over our armed forces with the change of the status of the American troops into a supportive role," he said. No's suggestion is one of his first moves to implement his election campaign pledges.

Hong's viewpoint is similar to that of many Foreign Ministry officials, though those at the Defense Ministry appear to be still very much upset by the Bush administration's push for withdrawal of the troops, prompted by the Nunn-Warner bill.

Foreign Ministry officials and many experts think that Washington will pull out troops that serve to deter war on the Korean peninsula unless Seoul covers all the expenses. But it will no doubt leave a limited number of servicemen here to cope with Soviet influence in the Northeast Asian region.

Prof. An Pyong-chun at Yonsei University told a seminar at the state-run Korea Defense Research Institute yesterday that it is believed that the United States will pull out all its ground forces from South Korea by early in the 21st century if there are improvements in inter-Korean relations and a political thaw in the surrounding region.

In a previous seminar organized by the Foreign Ministry-affiliated Institute for Foreign Affairs and National Security [IFANS] on Feb. 10, Prof. Kim Kuk-chin of the IFANS foresaw that the 43,000 U.S. troops would be reduced to the level of one brigade plus some support troops by the end of this decade.

Both government officials and experts maintain that the administration should not agree to the Washington demand for more "burden-sharing" if it reaches an "excessive" level.

Repercussion from the opposition is not negligible. Kim Tae-chung, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy, voiced his objection to increased cost-sharing when the withdrawal negotiation started.

Prof. Pak Kyong-so at Seoul's Chungang University said that Seoul had better invest in the buildup of its own military rather than in increasing its share of spending for the U.S. troops, destined to be withdrawn with the emerging East-West thaw and the Americans' neo-Monroeism.

The experts advise that Seoul use a withdrawal of the U.S. troops as a capital chance to draw north Korea to the negotiation table for mutual reductions in armed force" a gambit to set the way for reunification.

Some U.S. media described it as a "surprise" that Koreans are not shocked by Washington's decision earlier this month to close three of the five U.S. air bases, which was announced without full consultation with Seoul.

"Koreans are no longer so naive as to be shocked by the gradual withdrawal of American soldiers. Or even student activists demand for instant, complete pullout. Koreans are learning a lesson there are no eternal friends nor foes," commented one Foreign Ministry official.

Daily Lauds U.S.-Korean Conviction on Security

SK1702011590 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Feb 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Korea-U.S. Defense Talks"]

[Text] The defense chiefs of Korea and the United States, in their talks Thursday [15 Feb], agreed that despite the widespread international mood for detente and reconciliation, confrontation has not abated on the Korean Peninsula. Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun and his U.S. counterpart Dick Cheney reaffirmed their conviction that south Korea's security remains vital to the peace and stability of North-East Asia, which, in turn, is pivotal to America's global defense strategy. It was a realistic perception, given the fact that the double-edged nature of Communist north Korea's policy, alternating between the gun and the olive branch, has made the specter of its menace all the more elusive.

The two defense chiefs agreed in principle to a phased cut in the U.S. troop level here but that the specific number would be decided later through consultations between the two countries. Under no circumstances should reduction be made in a way misleading Pyongyang to see it as an opportunity to undertake adventurism in its relentless search for weakness on our part.

The two ministers, discussing security cooperation, shared the view that the United States should play more of a supportive role in the future as Korea takes the lead in assuming more operational responsibilities, a step forward in Seoul's constant efforts to make its defense less dependent on others.

Both sides, however, remain apart as to Seoul's outlay for the cost of maintaining U.S. troops in Korea. The pinch felt by Washington in footing the enormous bill run up in performing its superpower role deserves our understanding and sympathy. However, Korea's economy is also troubled, hamstrung by its heavy dependence on external trade and scarce resources. The disproportionately heavy defense expenditures, which account for nearly one-third of the annual budget, remain a burden to the fledgling Korean economy. We feel that Korea's readiness to assume a larger burden must be commensurate with its economic reality.

The Korea-U.S. defense talks this time were unable to deal with all the pending points at issue between the two countries. However, the talks laid the groundwork for working toward a complementary arrangement serving the interests of both sides and keeping the region stable and peaceful. Now that it is clear the two allies have not wavered in their common outlook and commitment, they must close ranks as inseparable partners in the unfolding new era in this part of the world. The least desired scenario involves any precipitous demands, lacking mutual understanding and realistic evaluation, that could work against the cause of genuine partnership.

Troop Reduction Should Be Keyed to DPRK Moves

SK1702113290 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 16 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "The U.S. Forces in the ROK and a Change in North Korea"]

[Text] The ROK-U.S. defense ministers' talks held in Seoul on 15 February decided that the leading role of the U.S. forces in the ROK in the defense of the Korean peninsula will be changed into that of a supportive role. The talks also concluded that issues such as the scale and timing of the reduction of the U.S. troops in the ROK, the sharing of the defense burden, and operational control will be discussed by a four-member ROK-U.S. panel.

During the talks held on 15 February, U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney reconfirmed the U.S. security commitment to the ROK. Cheney also announced that the United States will reduce U.S. forces in the ROK by 5,000 noncombatants by 1993, and he asked the ROK to increase its share of the cost of maintaining U.S. forces in the ROK by $380 million, which would be used for the yearly wages of the 13,800 ROK employees working at the U.S. forces' installations in the ROK.

In connection with the United States' move, we appreciate the fact that the Bush administration is under strong congressional pressure to reduce troops. U.S. congressional actions seem to have arisen from the enormous U.S. trade deficit and from changes in the international situation, such as the East-West detente that follows the Malta summit and the ongoing East-West arms reduction talks in Europe, as well as anti-U.S. sentiment in some segments of the ROK and some anti-ROK sentiment in the United States. We cannot reject forever the U.S. plan for a troop cut necessitated by a budget deficit, and we should create an environment both on and beyond the Korean peninsula that can make the U.S. troop withdrawal possible.

Nevertheless, the present situation on the Korean peninsula remains problematic. As Secretary Cheney said, "The Korean peninsula is the only region in the world where we must be anxious to know, waking up in the morning, whether we were spared from a surprise attack overnight," since tensions still remain on the peninsula. Despite the democratization and openness in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, North Korea shows no signs of a change, and its southward strategy of communizing the South through revolution and its intensive, offensive, and forward deployment of its troops near the DMZ remains unchanged.

We are concerned about the U.S. troop cut because this step could send the wrong signal to North Korea, leading it to another miscalculation. Therefore, we think that a sudden and massive reduction of U.S. troops in the ROK could hamper the Korean peninsula's stability—a situation that not only the United States but also China and the Soviet Union do not want.

Therefore, we believe that the cutback of U.S. troops in the ROK should be made in proportion to the steps taken by North Korea—that is, verifiable changes made in its attitude that prove North Korea has abandoned its attempt to communize the South and changed its offensive strategy. Moreover, reductions in U.S. troops ultimately should be made in proportion with North and South Korean arms reduction that come through joint confidence-building. The ROK Government should convince the United States of this in the forthcoming four-member panel.

To a certain extent, we have to accept the U.S. request for increasing the ROK's share of defense spending. However, in the special situation of North-South confrontation, the ROK now spends as much as six percent of its GNP on defense. Few other countries share such a heavy burden. The ROK's sharing of defense spending should be viewed differently from the case of Japan, which the United States uses as an example of a country sharing the cost of maintaining local employees, because Japan is beyond comparison with the ROK in its economic scale and capabilities. This issue should be viewed comprehensively and take into account such areas as the economy, trade, international balance of payments, military spending, technology transfer, and arms purchases.

The operational control for peacetime naturally should be transferred to us. However, North and South Korea are still at war technically; they are only in a state of cease-fire. So long as North Korea does not change its attitude, the issue of effective transfer of operational control from peacetime to wartime should be discussed between both sides for a satisfactory conclusion. We should like to stress once more that the most important thing in the forthcoming discussion between the ROK and the United states is that no decision on the U.S. troop cutback from the ROK should be made unilaterally. We also want to stress that the scale, timing, and method of the troop cut should be decided in proportion to the change in North Korea's attitude.

CHOSON ILBO Views Arms Control Symposium

SK1102111190 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 7 Feb 90 p 3

[Editorial: "Our Expectation From a Symposium on Arms Control"]

[Text] A symposium on the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Korea and arms control issues reportedly will be held, with scholars from the North and South of Korea and the United States attending. Although they are private citizens, these scholars—the North Korean delegate is a vice foreign minister, the U.S. delegate John Lewis is director of the Institute of International Strategy at Stanford University, and the Korean delegate Chong Chong-uk is a professor and the director of the Institute of International Affairs at Seoul National University—will certainly be maintaining close consultations and exchanging information with their respective governments. This being the case, the symposium can be said to be of great significance.

First of all, it is fortunate that North Korea has decided to send its delegate to this symposium. Whatever goal it may seek by sending its delegate to the symposium, regardless of whether it seeks to have direct negotiations with the United States or whether it means to broadly advertise its call for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Korea, which has long been its principled position, it is an entirely different thing. What is important is the fact that North Korea is now resolved to discuss arms control, in academic terms, with both Korea and the United States. We believe this is the same as saying that "a good start is half the battle."

The North Korean scholar may repeat what North Korea has asserted time after time. The question is what our side will say. We say this because, regrettably, our government does not seem to have worked out any unified sort of views or consensus on such things as discussing arms control with North Korea.

It is simply because North Korea sees the presence of U.S. troops in the South as "a stumbling block" to reunification, the sort of reunification it seeks to achieve, that for decades it has consistently called for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the South.

Although the military and the government authorities' repeated reference to it in the past has led us to form a habit of ignoring the fact, North Korea's preparedness to mount a surprise strike against us is grave and awesome. On the face of it, the armed forces of the North and South deployed in areas along the truce line appear to be well balanced.

This notwithstanding, the North Korean side's deployment of armed forces in areas along the truce line is only for diversionary purposes. Its armed forces deployed in the proximate rear areas and in the Western front—which has Seoul, our capital, in point-blank range—are particularly formidable. About 50 mechanized brigades, nearly 4,000 large-caliber self-propelled guns, and another nearly 5,000 tanks deployed there are ready to roll over through the middle of the truce line the moment U.S. troops withdraw.

A change in the deployment of the North Korean armed forces that are massed in areas immediately north of Seoul should be made a top-priority condition for arms control talks between the North and South. The change in the deployment of the North Korean armed forces will inevitably force North Korea to change its strategy and tactics against the South. Only when North Korea effects such a change in its deployment of the armed forces can we feel at ease even if U.S. troops withdraw from our country. If North Korea changes its deployment of forces and its strategy and tactics, it could be the same as embarking upon the road of peaceful coexistence with the South. This is the concession that we must extract from North Korea.

In a sense, North Korea is believed to be under pressure to change its strategy as such. According to statistics released by North Korea, it has continued scaling down the defense expenditures in the budget over the past 10 years. Nevertheless, the size of defense expenditures in proportion to the gross national product [GNP] has kept rising. On the contrary, our country's defense expenditures have kept shrinking in proportion to the GNP, although they have been increased year after year. Our country's GNP is over $160 billion, whereas that of North Korea is more or less $20 billion.

If under these circumstances the North and South continue the arms race, North Korea will find it impossible to avoid ruining its "national economy." It is on the basis of such a situation that we should seize the initiative for arms control negotiations. Conversely, we should never provide North Korea with an excuse or opportunity for mounting a surprise attack against the South by being persuaded into accepting its call for the withdrawal of U.S. troops or the theory of reunification, the central theme of which is to appeal to national self-respect.

Nor do we have to vainly suggest that we help North Korea. The notion of economic cooperation with North Korea also sounds hollow. North Korea should be made to reduce its armed forces before anything. The scholars from our side who are to participate in the symposium on arms control are urged to bear this in mind.

Concessions on U.S. Communications Imports

SK1702054690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0530 GMT 17 Feb 90

[By Kim Tae-shik]

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea seems to have averted U.S. sanctions in the telecommunications field by making substantial concessions that allow U.S firms to supply communications equipment to the Korean Government and the state-run Korea Telecommunication Authority (KTA).

During bilateral talks in Washington Feb. 14-15, Korea agreed to open the simple data base (DB) and data processing (DP) businesses in Korea to U.S. firms from July and the international DB business next year.

Korea succeeded in transferring negotiations on the U.S. demand for full opening of Korea's value added network

(VAN) service market from bilateral Korea-U.S. negotiations to the ongoing Uruguay round of trade negotiations for multilateral talks.

The United States had demanded that Korea fully open its service market, excluding telegraph and telephone services, to U.S. firms from 1991 and settle the issue in bilateral talks, but will now leave the problem up to the multilateral Uruguay round.

The two countries have held five rounds of talks in the last 12 months, most recently on Feb. 14-15, since the United States designated Korea a priority foreign country for negotiations in the communications field on Feb. 18 last year.

The U.S. Government will announce by Feb. 23 whether to invoke trade retaliation against Korea or extend the negotiations for one more year. Korean officials say chances are good that Washington will not invoke retaliation this year and extend the negotiations.

In the two days of talks, the last before the Feb. 18 deadline, the U.S. side requested that Korea fully open its markets for VAN services while the Korean side proposed that VAN projects of simple DB and DP be opened by next year on a step-by-step basis.

Korean officials suggested allowing U.S. companies to participate in the DB and DP market, which is valued at 100 billion won (145 million U.S. dollars), from July and in the international DB sector next year.

On the public purchase of telecommunications equipment by the Korean government, the two sides agreed foreign companies can participate in open bidding by KTA without any restrictions from 1993.

The United States originally requested that Korea grant equal opportunity to foreign firms in all biddings exceeding 25,000 U.S. dollars to be offered by not only KTA but other firms such as Data Communications Corp. of Korea and the Korea Mobile Communications Corp.

U.S. firms will be allowed to bid on KTA supplies contracts next year for equipment not related to communication networks such as office machinery. U.S. participation in communication equipment bidding will be possible from 1993.

In the field of standardization of equipment and recognition, the two sides agreed to reciprocally recognize each other's inspection agencies on the principle of reciprocity and guarantee participation of both countries in the procedure of installing standards.

All equipment imported into Korea had to be tested by either KTA or radio research laboratories.

The end of complicated recognition procedures for imported equipment is expected to let U.S. firms enter the Korean market for radio communications equipment and satellite communications equipment, Korean officials said.

With settlement of these issues, the two countries now have to deal with opening Korea's VAN service markets, which will be tackled in the Uruguay round, to be concluded by November this year.

If the issue cannot be settled in the Uruguay round, the two countries will discuss it in a bilateral forum next year.

If the issue is settled in the Uruguay talks, actual opening of the service market will be possible from 1992, they said.

Newspaper Discusses Eventual Ties With PRC

SK2002230790 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Tokyo (AFP)—China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping has told north Korean President Kim Il-song that China would eventually establish formal ties with south Korea, the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI reported Tuesday.

The remark was made when Kim held talks with Deng Nov. 6 during his visit to China, the newspaper quoted reliable Chinese sources in Beijing as saying.

"China must further develop economic relations with south Korea," Deng was quoted as telling Kim. "We intend to have political relations in the future," he added.

Kim, who has ruled north Korea since its founding in 1948, replied that he wishes China to be "prudent" in expanding ties with south Korea, the sources were quoted as saying.

China, which backed the north in the 1950-1953 Korean War, has expanded trade and other nonpolitical ties with the south in recent years despite the absence of diplomatic links.

A huge Chinese delegation took part in the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul. South Korea is to take part in the Asian Games this year in the Chinese capital.

Kim visited Beijing in November and agreed with Chinese leaders to uphold socialism against the tide of reforms sweeping Eastern Europe.

Last year, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia became the first Eastern European countries to set up diplomatic ties with south Korea, while the Soviet Union decided to have a consular office in Seoul.

Kim Asks Deng To Be 'Prudent' About ROK Ties

SK2002231190 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Tokyo (YONHAP)—Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping made it clear to North Korea that China would normalize its relations with South Korea, a Japanese newspaper reported Tuesday.

The YOMIURI SHIMBUN quoted a reliable Beijing source as saying that Deng told Kim Il-song last November when Kim visited Beijing that China will establish political relations with South Korea in the days to come.

Deng did not, however, elaborate when they would do so, according to the newspaper.

In his meeting with Kim on Nov. 6, Deng said that China was going to develop economic relations with South Korea further, according to the Chinese source.

Upon hearing Deng's position, Kim looking disturbed, asked the Chinese leader to be prudent (about establishing diplomatic ties with South Korea), the newspaper reported.

The Beijing source said that it is of great significance that Deng informed Kim directly of the Chinese government's policy, the Japanese paper said.

Consular Department To Open in Moscow 22 Feb

SK2102074990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0721 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea's consular department in the Soviet Union will open Thursday [22 February] in the Hotel Mezhdunarodnaya in downtown Moscow and will function as a regular consulate, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

Kong No-myong, head of the consular department, is scheduled to leave Korea on Tuesday and to arrive in Moscow on March 2 after picking up his entry visa at the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo, the ministry said.

On Jan. 30, the government dispatched consul So Hyon-sop and an assistant to Moscow to prepare for the opening of the office.

No Meets With Consular Envoy

SK2002002190 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] The first Korean diplomat to reside in Moscow, Kong No-myong, said he would deliver President No Tae-u's will for advancing the normalization of ties between Korea and the Soviet Union to the Soviet officials he will meet in Moscow.

He will also exert efforts to realize the talks between Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung and his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze which Choe proposed recently. Kong was appointed the head of the consular department of Korea that opened earlier this month.

He said President No talked extensively about what he has in mind for the relations with the Communist superpower when he visited Chongwadae in the morning to receive his appointment.

"I don't bring to Moscow No's message in writing but I will do my best to make the Soviets understand his hope for peace on the Korean Peninsula," he told reporters.

Kong, former consul-general in New York, is well known for his role in successfully bridging the Seoul and Beijing governments when a Chinese civil airliner accidentally landed at Kimpo in 1983, which many say brought about a break-through in Korea-Chinese relations, while he was serving as assistant foreign minister.

The 57-year-old career diplomat said he is not sure whom he will be able to meet in Moscow and how he will be treated.

"However, I do not expect my activities there to be limited because of my title," he said.

Kong and two other Korean officials in the consular department will enjoy the same privileges provided to consuls by the Vienna Convention according to the agreement made between Seoul and Moscow last year.

The department is also allowed to represent the Korean government in negotiations for bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy and trade, science and technology and culture on top of the function of issuing visas.

As he is not ambassador, however, all he has to do to initiate his work in Moscow is to send a note to the Soviet Foreign Ministry to inform them of his arrival.

"The present relations between Seoul and Moscow are limited but the consular department in Moscow is significant as the first formal channel of dialogue between the two governments," he said.

Kong said he believes the Soviets share the view of the Koreans that improvement in relations between Seoul and Moscow contributes to easing tensions and establishing permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.

"I will try my best to develop the relationship into a full diplomatic one based on common understanding," he said.

The diplomat said Moscow has not notified Seoul of who will head the Soviet consular department in Seoul. He expected the Soviet government to take into account the "principle of mutualism" in selecting the person, hinting that a diplomat of rank will be appointed.

Kong will leave for Moscow Feb. 27 and initiate work in Moscow early next month.

KAL-Aeroflot Pact Results From Trade Increase

SK1802020990 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Feb 90 p 3

[From the "News Analysis" column]

[Text] In view of the absence of full diplomatic ties between south Korea and the Soviet Union, the agreement under which Korean Air (KAL) and Aeroflot will make regular flights to each other's country from late next month is surprising and unprecedented.

"This is something unusal," one Transportation Ministry official conceded.

Kim Se-chan, chief of the Transportation Ministry's international aviation division, acknowledged that the Korean government had been unwilling to permit Aeroflot to fly to Korea regularly for security reasons and in consideration of the traditional friendly ties with the United States until recently.

"Practicality might have weighed heavily on the policy change," said Kim, noting that Seoul and Moscow are expanding their economic relations.

He particularly invited attention to the fact that Korean enterprises want to participate in the development of Siberia.

"Since their exports to the United States have been sluggish, it may be natural that they are turning to East European countries and the Soviet Union," another ministry official observed.

Officials at the Defense Ministry and the Agency for National Security Planning had reportedly balked at the idea of allowing the Soviet national airline Aeroflot to launch regular flights to Korea. They have worried that the Soviet airliners might take pictures of Korean and U.S. military installation along the western and southern coasts.

It was not known why they had changed their mind. There are rumors that Korean Air officials lobbied the government.

Another theory is that the drastic changes happening in the Soviet Union have prompted the government to reverse its position toward the Aeroflot issue.

Airline industry sources speculated that the planned reduction of U.S. troops posted in south Korea influence the decision.

A Korean airline launched service to Japan about one year before Seoul and Tokyo established full diplomatic ties in 1965. However, the flights were made possible because the two countries already agreed to set up full ties, said Transportation Ministry officials.

The KAL and Aeroflot plan to fly to each other's capital is surprising and unprecedented, said a top ministry official who requested anonymity.

He said the planned flights are based on a commercial agreement signed between the two airlines.

The Korean government will send to Moscow a letter granting Aeroflot's right to land at Korea's Kimpo International Airport, he said.

Korean Air will save tons of fuel by passing through Soviet territory, though the Seoul-Moscow route will not be commercially viable for the time being.

"We will suffer losses when our airliners stop in Moscow because of huge landing and maintenance fees, but we will certainly earn a profit by saving fuel through shortened flights," Kim Ho-taek, a KAL spokesman, said.

He pointed out that KAL's flights to Europen cities will no longer use Anchorage Airport, allowing the airline great savings in fuel.

KAL officials say their payment to Moscow will be at least $6,000 per flight.

Considering that in 1983 Soviet fighters shot down a KAL Boeing 747 when it strayed into Soviet air space, killing all 269 people on board, airline industry workers said, the airline's regular flights to Moscow attest to improving ties between south Korea and the Soviet Union.

Moscow-Seoul Flights To Avoid DPRK Airspace

SK2102062490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0447 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 22 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Transportation Ministry denied Wednesday a report in a local newspaper that the Soviet Union has proposed opening an air route from Moscow to Seoul via North Korea or suggested changing the established routes between the two countries to bypass Japan's flight information region (FIR).

The CHOSON-ILBO, a morning daily, reported in its Wednesday editions that the Soviet Union is hoping to establish a Seoul-Moscow air route via North Korea. It further reported that Moscow has proposed that Soviet airliners enter South Korea's FIR without passing through Japan's FIR.

A Ministry spokesman said South Korea has not received such proposals from the Soviet Union and such issues are not suitable for discussion.

Korea and the Soviet Union will begin regular Seoul-Moscow flights in March using a route that passes through Japan's FIR.

The spokesman said it is impossible for Soviet airliners to enter Korea's FIR without passing through Japan's or North Korea's FIR.

He said South Korea and the Soviet Union have not and cannot discuss an air route via North Korea.

Delegation Leaves To Attend Meeting on Chernobyl

SK2102081790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0759 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 21 (YONHAP)—A South Korean delegation left Wednesday [21 February] for Vienna to attend a meeting on setting up an international research center for on-site studies of the Chernobyl reactor accident.

Led by Chon Pung-il, a senior nuclear safety expert in the Science and Technology Ministry, the two-man team will examine the planned scope of study and conditions for participation to decide whether Korea should apply to join the center. The conference is slated to be held Feb. 23-26 in Vienna.

During a session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna in September last year, the Soviet Union proposed a basic agreement between the IAEA and Moscow on the establishment of an international research center at Chernobyl.

The Soviet Union offered to supply land, equipment and other items on condition that participating countries enter into separate contract for each research field, pay their own expenses and share the results of the studies with the host.

If the IAEA and the Soviet Government conclude the agreement, scientists are likely to visit Chernobyl within the year. The 1986 incident claimed 31 lives and seriously injured 203.

Columnist Sees Relations With USSR 'Thawing'

SK2002015190 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Feb 90 p 8

[From the "News in Review" column by assistant economic editor Kim Chum-tong: "Encouraging Signs Prevail To Step Up Cooperative Relations With Moscow"]

[Text] Encouraging signs appear to prevail for expediting practical cooperative ties with the Soviet Union not only in economic exchanges but in industrial and scientific relations.

Among the events that are expected to stimulate Seoul-Moscow relations are the two accords signed by representatives of the two countries last week—one on mutual cooperation for promotion of trade and tourist exchanges and the other one for scientific and technological cooperation.

The announcement that regular flights by Korean Air and the Soviet national airline Aeroflot between the two countries will be inaugurated on March 25 is also seen as another positive effort to add fuel to the fledgling ties.

Both diplomats and economic experts observe that the time is near for substantially improved relations between this newly industrialized nation and the giant socialist country.

Moscow's need to lure economic, capital and technical assistance and cooperation from abroad, especially for the production of daily necessities, is working well with Seoul's efforts to find new markets.

The flight services, which are certain to step up personal and material exchanges, could be a critical turning point in facilitating trade, economic and cultural ties that have been severed since the Korean War.

Diplomatic problems with Moscow, caused by its unconditional support of the causes of North Korea, have been keeping economic exchanges from developing.

Now Seoul-Moscow diplomatic relations are thawing. The recent establishment of consular relations and ensuing assignment of a senior ambassador as chief of the consular department are regarded as de facto diplomatic ties.

Soon after Kong No-myong, ambassador to the United Nations, assumes his Moscow post late this month, an accord is expected to be concluded to protect investment in each country, paving the way for Koreans to increase their investment in the Communist super power country.

The Hyundai leader Chong Chu-yong's visit to the Soviet Union one year ago brought about the so-called "Soviet fever" that has fanned the desire of Korean businessmen to invest in the Russian territory, especially in the Soviet Far East and eastern Siberia.

But the fad cooled down soon because of the investment climate and conditions unfavorable for investors. Only one of the two projects—a plan to produce fur products by Jindo Corporation—has been undertaken so far. More than a dozen projects are still being negotiated with the Soviet business organizations concerned.

The recent government decision not to restrict industrialists from investing up to $10 million in factories manufacturing consumer goods and service industry in the Soviet Union will be an element encouraging investment in and trade exchanges with the socialist super power.

Two way trade between the two countries in 1989 remained merely at $600 million—$400 million in imports and $200 million in exports. But the import and export figures represented an increase of 150 percent and 450 percent, respectively, over the preceding year.

Chong, head of one of the nation's top conglomerates, is to visit the Soviet Union again in April or May. Nam Tok-u, chairman of the Korea Foreign Trade Association, is also to visit Moscow in the not too distant future, probably in May, leading a group of around 15 businessmen.

The situation in the Soviet Union shows more encouraging improvement and Koreans have wider information than one year ago. The delegations led by Chong and Nam are not expected to return home empty handed this time.

It is true that there still remain many hurdles standing in the way, including the lack of foreign currency, the inconvertible ruble, inconvenient social infrastructure and economic administrative systems deemed inefficient to the businessmen in the democracies.

It may take years or even decades to put Korea-Soviet relations on the normal track. Besides the economic benefits, Seoul can expect that the stepped-up relations with Moscow will prompt Pyongyang to open the door of its tightly-closed society and improve ties with Seoul.

Opening of Trade Office in Prague Announced

SK2002124390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0956 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 20 (YONHAP)—South Korea opened its trade office in Prague, Czechoslovakia, on Tuesday [20 February], a spokesman for the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation (KOTRA) said.

The KOTRA branch office in Prague temporarily started business at the guest house building of the Czech Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the spokesman said.

It is KOTRA's sixth trade center established in East Europe, following those in Yugoslavia, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria and the Soviet Union.

The Prague office is headed by Kang Yong-chung, who served as chief of KOTRA's Middle East and Oceanian Department, he said.

South Korea exported 26 million U.S. dollars worth of goods to Czechoslovakia during the January-November

period last year and imported 22 million dollars worth of goods from the East European country, according to the spokesman.

With the opening of the trade office in Prague, South Korea is expected to further promote economic and trade cooperation with Czechoslovakia, he said.

Prague has asked Seoul to provide cooperation in such fields as electronics, computers, textiles and communications, he said.

Plans for Overseas Information Centers Outlined

SK1402093290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0648 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 14 (YONHAP)—South Korea will open overseas information service centers in Budapest and West Berlin this year and close its centers in Scandinavia, Information Minister Choe Pyong-yol said Wednesday.

Choe, in a report to President No Tae-u, said his ministry is also considering stationing more information service officers in the United States and withdrawing some in other countries as part of a restructuring, going from 36 centers in 29 countries to 32 centers in 22 countries.

In order to upgrade domestic broadcasting, the ministry will revise laws and regulations to allow the establishment of private radio and TV networks and will initiate cable TV services in major cities this year.

The ministry will also establish government publicity centers in Seoul and provincial capitals by 1992 to prepare for local autonomy.

President No directed Choe to study ways to feed North Korea information, noting that a continual introduction of information by West Germany brought down the communist system in East Germany.

No also instructed that a consultative body be set up by officials of related ministries to pursue effective overseas publicity.

Government press policy should be to promote democratization and honor the public's right to know rather than propagating government policies, he said.

* Career Moves for 50 Generals Expected

902C0098 Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 24 Dec 89 pp 10-13

[Article by Kim Hyo-chae: "Shuffle Expected of Over 50 General Officers, Major General and Above"]

[Text] **First Emergence of Generals From 16th Class of the Military Academy; Position of 14th Class Lieutenant Generals Also Attract Interest**

A major year-end shuffle of generals is imminent.

In concert with the year-end regular movement of major generals following the promotion of general officers on 6 December, there will be the "major movement of stars" comprising the promotion of one officer to full general, and 50-60 officers to major or lieutenant general.

The focus of interest in personnel this time, the third change to take place in the Sixth Republic, rests on who will move up to succeed General Ko Myong-sung as commander of the Third Army. In accordance with the personnel law, a general is automatically required to change positions after two years, or retire if no position is available. Consequently, Commander Ko, who advanced from Security Commander to Commander of the Third Army at the end of December 1987, is due to leave this post this year.

There are six army full generals at present; Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Chong Ho-kun (5th class, A), Army Chief of Staff Yi Chong-Ku (Military Academy 14th class), Deputy Commander of ROK-U.S. Combined Command Na Chung-pae (Military Academy 15th class), First Army Commander Yi Chin-sam (Military Academy 15th class), Second Army Commander Min Kyong-pae (Military Academy 14th class), and Commander Ko Myong-sung. Except for Commander Ko, five of these six generals are not due to move this time because their terms are not yet up. Consequently, it is certain that one of the lieutenant generals from the 16th class of the Military Academy who has served as a corps commander and is now assigned to Army headquarters or the Ministry of Defense will move up to succeed Commander Ko.

There are three officers from the 16th class of the Military Academy who have served as frontline corps commanders. They are Army Chief of Staff Lt Gen Sin Mal-yop, Military Academy Commandant Lt Gen Yi Pil-sop, and National Defense College President Lt Gen Chong Man-kil. As a graduate of Pusan High School, Army Chief of Staff Sin is considered to be a solid choice to succeed Chairman Yi Chong ku.

Military Academy Commandant Yi, a native of Tangjin, South Chunchong Province, was a regiment commander in the Seoul occupation force at the time of the 12 December incident. As a colonel in command of a regiment subordinate to the 9th Division, he shared hardships with the then division commander, No Tae-u. Lt Gen Ku Chang-hoe, the present head of the Capital Defense Command, was chief of staff at that time.

National Defense College President Chong graduated from Seoul High School and is known as an operations expert in Army circles. In the event that one of these three officers moves up, he will become the first to make full general from the 16th class. As the highest rank in the military, the rank of full general is usually a hard pinnacle to reach, and it is rare for even two or three to achieve it out of a class of 110 or more students at the Military Academy. Therefore, to become full general it helps, of course, to be a capable officer, to come from the

right region, and to have an intimate relationship with the ultimate person with authority over personnel, the president. Without luck, however, it would be hard to gain the prestige of promotion to full general, no matter how well qualified or how firm one's popularity within the military might be.

Since the 11th class, there have been only nine generals who have worn the stars of full general, a rank to which all officers aspire, and who are not presently retired. There were four in the 11th class which has provided two presidents. They are: President No Tae-u, ex-president Chon Tu-hwan, DJP parliamentarian Chong Ho-yong, and Minister of Defense, Yi Sang-hun. The 12th class has three: former Army Chief of Staff Pak Hui-to, DJP parliamentarian Pak Chun-pyong, and An Pil-chun. The 13th class has two: Choe Sei-chang, and Chong Chin-tae. The 14th class has two members on active duty including the present Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Yi Chong-ku. The 15th class has three on active duty.

Should a member of the 16th class become a "flower of flowers" of the Army by achieving full general, the attitude of his predecessors who were not promoted to full general will become an issue. Generals ahead of the 16th class who are still on active duty in the Army are Lt Gen Yi Kyong-hui, a classmate of JCS Chairman Yi from the 14th class, Lt Gen Yim Pyong-sik and Lt Gen Yi Tae-hui from the 15th class. Among these, Lt Gen Yi Kyong-hui completes his term at the end of this year.

Regional Preponderance for Promotion to Full General Remains the Same

In this case, there will be one post vacated by promotion to full general and a minimum of two lieutenant general posts in the Ministry of National Defense, etc., thereby making moves unavoidable. It is certain that corps commanders from the 16th and 17th classes will fill the lieutenant general positions. There are four graduates of the 16th class who are corps commanders: Lieutenant Generals Song Ung-sop (North Chunchong Province), Pak Il-san (South Chunchong Province), Chong In-kyun (Seoul), and Chon Yong-taek. The lieutenant generals from the 17th class are Yim Yon-ho (Seoul), Kim Tong-chin (Seoul), Kim Tae-sop (South Cholla Province), and Yi Pyong-tae. The Special Warfare Commander, Lt Gen Yi Mun-sok (Seoul), and Education Commander Lt Gen Kim Chin-yong (Pusan) are also from the 17th class. Those who are due for replacement at the end of this year are lieutenant generals Song Ung-sop, Pak Il-sun, Chong In-kyun of the 16th class and Yim Yon-ho from the 17th class. Thus, these four are subject to personnel moves. The other lieutenant generals are not due to be replaced this time.

Besides the 16th and 17th classes, corps command positions are expected to be filled by transfers from the 17th or appointments from the 18th class. From the 18th class, at present, is Capital Defense Commander Lt Gen Kim Chang-hoe (South Kyongsang Province) and Lt Gen Cho Nam-pung, Security Commander (South Chungchong Province-Pusan Tonghae High School graduate), but these two were appointed to their present posts in the personnel moves last March. Thus they are not due for a personnel move this time. Consequently, it appears that the major generals from the 18th class who have completed their tours as division commanders and are serving as staff officers in the Ministry of National Defense or Army Headquarters will be advanced. Sources familiar with military personnel matters predict that two generals from the 17th class and two from the 18th class will be appointed as corps commanders.

Persons from the 18th class who are rumored to be promoted to lieutenant general are Ministry of National Defense Major Generals Kim, Yun, Pak, and Army Headquarters Major General Yi.

From the major generals rising to lieutenant general rank (division commanders, Ministry of National Defense bureau chiefs or Army Headquarters staff department chiefs), the greatest number of 19th class major generals now working at headquarters are expected to go to the frontlines as division commanders and it appears that the promotees in the upcoming personnel shuffle will fill the vacancies left by them. Ministry of National Defense sources consider that in conjunction with replacements for those lieutenant generals being promoted to full general, about 100 generals will either move or be promoted.

One can discover several different points this time from the general officer promotions on 6 December of last year. The foremost change is a worsening in the imbalance in region of origin.

The total promotions to lieutenant general this time were 52 people. An overwhelming majority of these, 28 persons, originated from the Yongnam region. Specifically, there were 14 each from South Kyongsang and North Kyongsang Provinces. Considering the fact that less than half of the 53 promotions to lieutenant general last year, that is, 22 persons came from the Yongnam region. The regional preponderance in this year's general officer promotions has been extreme.

Second to Yongnam is the Honam region with nine persons (five from North Cholla and 4 from South Cholla Provinces). After these come eight persons, four each from North and South Chungchong Provinces. Seoul and Kyonggi Province follow with two and three respectively and there are two from other places of origin, including North Korea.

It is an already established fact that promotees to general officer in the military who are from the Yongnam region received favorable treatment. Consequently, the regional preponderance of generals last year became an issue in the National Assembly. When considering the fact that the promotion ratio of Yongnam candidates slipped, perhaps because of this issue, the presumption is that this year's Yongnam generals were to make up the lost share of last year. There are some military sources who view the surprising number of Yongnam generals as an

"unavoidable fact of life." They reason that this is because the number of Yongnam candidates is predominant within the bank of colonels who are sources of general officer promotions. After the 16 May incident, many Yongnam constituents entered the military and a relationship of mutual assistance came about within an atmosphere in which region of origin counts for something among the rank and file. Ultimately, this exerted considerable influence on promotions and the rate of Yongnam constituents thereby gradually increased as they advanced in rank.

Considering the region of origin for Army Chiefs of Staff from the third republic on, the preponderance of region for generals becomes more striking. Of the 13 generals, only three came from other regions; namely, from the 15th class, General Kim Chong-o (North Chungchong Province, Chongwon) at the beginning of the Third Republic, from the 16th class, General Min Ki-sik (North Chungchong Province, Chongwon), and the Kyonggi Province constituents, from the 21st class, Generals Yi Se-ho (Kyonggi Province, Kaesong), and 23d class, Yi Hui-sung (Kyonggi Province, Kaesong). The remaining nine were from the Yongnam region. They are: 17th class, General Kim Yong-pae (Seoul), 18th class General Kim Kyu-won (North Kyongsang Province, Yongju), 19th class So Chong-chol (South Kyongsang Province, Yangsan), 19th class So Chong-chol (South Kyongsang Province, Yangsan), 20th class No Chae-hyon (South Kyongsang Province, Yangsan), 22d class Chong Sung-hwa (North Kyongsang Province, Kumnung), 24th class Hwang Se-si (North Kyongsang Province, Yongju), 25th class Chong Ho-yong (Taegu), 26th class Pak Hui-to (South Kyongsang Province, Changnyong), 27th class Yi Chong-ku (Taegu).

In the formal echelon of the military, the position of chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which is the number one position in the Army, higher than the Army chief of staff, (the chairman of the combined staff at the beginning of the Third Republic), was held by four generals from the Honam region: 10th class Yim Chung-sik (South Cholla Province, Haenam), 11th class Mun Hyong-tae (South Cholla Province, Hwasun), 17th class Yun Song-min (South Cholla Province, Muan), and 20th class Chong Chin-kwon (North Cholla Province, Changsong). Also from the Honam region are the following ministers of defense, now in the reserves; 18th class Yim Chung-sik, 19th class Chong Nae-hyok (South Cholla Province, Koksong), and 24th class Yun Song-min.

Generals From ROTC Increasing Yearly; Top-Grade Candidates Decrease

In conjunction with the preponderance of specific regions, a striking point is the increase of generals from the school military units (ROTC). When enumerating the educational institutions which produced general officer promotions, we find 39 from the Military Academy, five from school military units and eight originating from top grade officer candidate schools. Of the 53 promotions last year, 40 were from the Military Academy, two from the school military units, and 11 from class A officer candidate schools. The number of promotions from school military units increased to five this year over two for last year, testifying to the much increased clout exercised by officers from school military units. After producing 2,642 graduates in the first classes in 1963, school military units produced 3,000-4,000 officers each year and there are presently over 89,000 on duty in the Army, Navy and Air Force. In the Army, 100 per year, on the average, volunteer for long-term military service, of the over 3,000 graduates of school military units who are commissioned second lieutenants upon graduation. Nevertheless, the number of officers from school military units who have achieved the rank of general up to the present amounts to only 21 (including this year's promotions). It is not surprising that the rise of those from school military units is related to the growth of pressure groups such as the increased influence of officers from school military units within the military, as well as those personnel who completed their school military service, filled various niches in society and hold regular meetings together, etc. Considering the above, general officer promotions from among school military graduates will increase in the future.

The promotion of top-grade candidates has significantly decreased in comparison with the rise of the school military. Top-grade graduates had first completed 12 weeks of training at the Army Infantry School. Afterwards, their educational period gradually increased to six months and then one year, thereby graduating as many as 230 classes. The top class candidates course in the infantry school was subsequently reorganized into the Third Officers Academy (two year course). The fact that top class graduates received a poor reception in the personnel moves this time is closely connected with the reduction in the number of officers from the top class. When their successors, the officers from the Third Officers Academy, became eligible for promotion to general, an acute response will be evoked on the issue of how many of them will be made generals in comparison with the military academy graduates. Of the graduates of the Third Officers Academy, five to six persons from the first class of May 1987 were promoted to full colonel, and they are expected to make general in two-three years. Among officers who are top class graduates, there are Chairman of the JCS Chong Ho-kun, and former Minister of Defense O Cha-pok,

Eight From 24th Class of Military Academy Pin on First Star; Increase of Special Branch Graduates Noteworthy

Another interesting point in the general officer promotions, when considered by branch of service, is the rise of special branch officers subordinate to the Education Headquarters. In the past, the number of special branch officers who were promoted to general did not exceed three, but this year there were six. Military sources conclude that this occurred in connection with the

command guidelines of Army Chief of Staff Yi Chong-ku. After his appointment, General Yi emphasized educational revision within the military, even setting this year as the year of education revision. He focused on peacetime educational training for the military. Accordingly, it is noted that many excellent personnel were assigned to units subordinate to the Education Headquarters and more generals were appointed in comparison with past years.

On the other hand, the increase in special branch generals can be viewed as the installation of a normal preparatory system for the Army. That is, one concludes that the military is basically a group predicated on war but under the circumstances in which the armistice has continued for a long time, the special branch officers who had been categorically inferior numerically to the combat branches, such as infantry, artillery, armor, etc., would of necessity be given a favorable treatment for the purpose of instituting normal preparatory measures for the future.

Sources say that the fact that more officers from units subordinate to the Education Headquarters pinned on their stars this year in comparison with last year, proves that the influence within Army circles of Lt Gen Kim Chin-yong, who assumed his post as commander of the Education Headquarters last March, is still strong and healthy.

Sources have concluded that there is a relatively selective distribution by service. Army Headquarters has the most with 14, First and Second Armies have four each, the Third Army has five and the remainder are distributed in the Ministry of National Defense, etc.

In the promotions to general this time, eight members of the 24th class of the Military Academy were promoted to general for the first time, 16 from the 23d class, 13 from the 22d class, and 2 from the 21st class were also promoted. Of the school military unit graduates, one of the 5th class achieved the rank of general for the first time and two each from the 1st and 4th classes became generals.

These general officer promotees will move up to fill posts or be reassigned in the year-end personnel action this time. The view is that the major shuffle of generals at the end of this year is geared to provide personnel to form the National Defense Staff Headquarters which is scheduled to be established next year, and it appears that they will have a close connection with the makeup of the National Defense Staff Headquarters. In particular, Army Chief of Staff Yi Chong-ku's term is up in June of next year and he seems to be the best bet to become the first National Defense Chief of Staff. Thus, the possibility is great that he is either slated for a move or due for a promotion.

Burma

148 Burmese Soldiers Reported Killed in Battle

BK1502034890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1932 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 14 (AFP)—A total of 148 Burmese soldiers were killed in a pitched battle for Kawmura, a stronghold held by ethnic guerrillas belonging to the Karen National Union (KNU), earlier this week, Thai paramilitary and Karen sources said Wednesday [14 February].

A Thai paramilitary officer stationed near the village of Wang Kaeo, some 14 kilometres (nine miles) southwest of Thailand's border town of Mae Sot, quoting the latest field reports, said a total of 31 bodies of Burmese soldiers have been uncovered on Thai soil. KNU sources, quoting Burmese military radio communications monitored in Kawmura camp, said that there were reports to the Burmese field command that a total of 148 Rangoon troops have been listed as "killed and missing." The figure included those killed inside Thai territory, they said.

A 300-strong contingent of Rangoon's 111st and 116th Battalions attached to the 33d Division, who were in a running battle with KNU guerrillas Saturday on the Burmese side of the border, crossed the Moei border river into Thailand and were met with superior Thai firepower when they refused to pull back, the Thai officer said. The entire Burmese strength, including attacking forces and reserve units, totalled around 1,500 men, the bulk of which was thrown into battle in an attempt to seize Kawmura, defended by 250-300 KNU guerrillas, he said.

Thai border troops recovered two surface-to-surface rockets, six 62mm rocket rounds, 14 two-inch mortar rounds, nine 32mm mortar rounds, seven 62mm mortar rounds, 24 RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] launchers with seven rounds, three 75mm recoiless rifle rounds, six hand grenades and 1,350 rounds of NATO M-60 ammunition left behind by the intruding Burmese soldiers, the officer said.

The KNU source said that some 550-600 KNU combatants were defending Kawmura camp and six were killed in the battle. Annother 33 Karen guerrillas were "killed instantly" when a pile of mortar and recoiless rifle rounds and grenades captured from the Burmese Army and heaped in the main clearing of Kawmura exploded, the source said. The explosion which occurred Saturday night had been an accident caused by negligence by some guerrillas, the Karen source said. The source also said KNU guerrillas have captured four Burmese soldiers, one of them a captain. "The four have refused to return to their units after we allowed to them to go. The Burmese soldiers said they would face imprisonment if they returned to their units without their weapons, so we have to keep them for the time being," the source said.

Reporters covering the fighting from the Thai side of the border were told by Thai military authorities that most of the weapons that were left behind by the Burmese soldiers were Chinese-made. "Even the service pistol of Burmese Army Major Kyaw Win, who was captured inside Thailand, was Chinese-made," the reporters quoted Thai military officers as saying.

Maj. Kyaw Win, who commanded the Burmese unit which intruded into Thailand, and was arrested along with three privates and five porters, was sent back across the border Monday at Burma's border town of Myawadi, opposite Mae Sot.

Intermitent fighting around Kawmura continued through Wednesday. Meanwhile, some 170 kilometres (105 miles) to the south of Mae Sot, sporadic fighting between Rangoon troops and Mon ethnic rebels continued Wednesday near Three Pagodas Pass on the border, where Burmese soldiers captured the main Mon rebel base in the area earlier this week. A Burmese source here, who is in contact with members of the All Burmese Student Democratic Front (ABSDF) at Three Pagodas Pass in Kanchanaburi Province, said Wednesday that a number of students have been trapped between an advancing Burmese column and the closely guarded Thai border. The students were in imminent danger of being attacked, he said.

Thai Border Patrol Police 134th Battalion Commander Colonel Sombun Khunchai reached by telephone at his base in Kanchanaburi's Sangkha Buri border district said Wednesday that 35 Burmese students had managed to escape the fighting into Thailand and were being "looked after" at a makeshift refugee camp in the district where some 2,000 Mon villagers were also being accommodated.

Registration of Another Political Party Annulled

BK1902144990 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] has issued Announcement No. 385, dated 19 February 1990—the 10th day of the waning moon of Tabodwe, 1351 Myanmar Era. The announcement reads:

Subject: Annulment of registration of the National Democracy Establishment Party, Central, NDEP, as a political party.

1. The Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections of the Union of Myanmar announced that the National Democracy Establishment Party, Central, which has its headquarters at the residence of U Than Swe at No. Nga/494 Hlaing Myitta Street, No. 12 ward, Hlaing Township, Yangon [Rangoon] Division, was permitted registration as a political party by the commission in accordance with Article 5A of the Political Parties Registration law on 27 February 1989. This was stated in Announcement No. 115 issued on that day.

2. However, since the commission is now in receipt of a request seeking an annulment of the registration of that

party, it hereby announces the annulment of the registration of the National Democracy Establishment Party, Central, effective 19 February 1990.

By the authority vested in me

Signed: Aye Maung, secretary

Lao Trade Minister, Delegation Conclude Visit

Meet Agriculture Minister

BK1702095590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] A delegation from the Lao People's Democratic Republic headed by M.r Phao Bounnaphon, minister of trade and foreign economic relations, accompanied by Mr. (Vinsei Sana), charge d'affaires ad interim of the Lao Embassy, called on Brigadier General Chit Swe, minister for livestock breeding and fisheries and for agriculture and forests, at 0930 today at the reception hall of Myanmar [Burma] Agricultural Service at No. 50, Natmauk Road. Present at the meeting were U Maung Maung Bo, director general of the Department of Planning and Statistics; U Hla Pe, managing director of Myanmar Timber Enterprise; and U Saw Kyi, director of the Department of Forestry.

Later, the Lao delegation visited No. 1 Sawmill of Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Kyeemyindine. The managing director of Myanmar Timber Enterprise hosted a luncheon for the Lao delegation at Kyunshwewar Hall. The luncheon was attended by Brig. Gen. Chit Swe, minister of livestock breeding and fisheries and minister of agriculture and forests, and responsible officials. Earlier in the morning, the Lao delegation visited the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Meet Energy, Mines Minister

BK1702094990 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] A delegation from the Lao People's Democratic Republic headed by Mr. Phao Bounnaphon, minister of trade and foreign economic relations, accompanied by Mr. (Vinsei Sana), charge d'affaires ad interim of the Lao Embassy, called on Rear Admiral Maung Maung Khin, minister of mines and energy, at 1400 today at the office of the minister for energy on Minye Kyawzwa Road.

Present at the meeting were U Tin Tun, director general of the Department of Energy Planning of the Ministry of Energy; U Aung Min, managing director of Myanmar [Burma] Oil and Gas Enterprise; U Tha Hlaing, managing director of Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise; Lieutenant Colonel Thein Tun of the Navy, special officer at the Ministry of Energy; and U Tun Myint, director of the Department of Energy Planning.

Next the Lao delegation discussed matters of mutual interest with officials from the Department of Energy Planning of the Ministry of Energy, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, and Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise.

Sign Trade Memorandum

BK1702103090 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] A memorandum of understanding on talks on bilateral economic and trade cooperation between the Ministry of Trade of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] and the Lao People's Democratic Republic was signed at a ceremony held at 1800 this evening at the Inya Lake Hotel. The ceremony was attended by officials from the Ministry of Trade and members of the Lao trade delegation.

Under the terms of the memorandum, work will continue on details of arrangements for signing a bilateral trade agreement, coordination to conduct border trade, and cooperation in tourism.

The ceremony concluded after the memorandum of understanding was signed by Colonel Abel, minister for trade and for finance and planning and Mr. Phao Bounnaphon, minister for trade and foreign economic relations of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Later, the Laotian minister hosted a return reception for the invited guests at the Ruby Room in the Inya Lake Hotel.

Depart Rangoon

BK1702135290 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] A trade delegation from the Lao People's Democratic Republic headed by Mr. Phao Bounnaphon, minister of trade and foreign economic relations, left Yangon [Rangoon] by air today at 0745.

The Lao delegation was seen off at the airport by Colonel Abel, minister for trade and for planning and finance; U Maung Maung Kyaw, director general of the Directorate of Trade; U Ba Thwin, director general of the International Relations and Economics Department of th Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials; Mr. (Vinsei Sana), charge d'affaires ad interim of the Laotian Embassy; Mr. Nguyen Hao, Vietnamese ambassador to Myanmar [Burma], and responsible officials.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Wants ASEAN To Help UN Administer

BK2102021990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Phatthaya—Prince Norodon Sihanouk yesterday proposed ASEAN join the United Nations in administering Cambodia for one year because the community "understands best" about the resistance.

He told Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila he will formally ask the ASEAN foreign ministers to agree with his proposal.

The Prince and ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi, meanwhile, agreed the Khmer Rouge could not be excluded from peace talks and that the seat of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea at the UN should not be left vacant, or else unrest in the war-torn country would remain and such talks would fail.

The best way to establish peace, the foreign minister said, is to form a Supreme Council inside Cambodia instead of letting the Heng Samrin regime rule Phnom Penh.

Sources said Prince Sihanouk would enter Cambodia on Saturday [24 February] to stay there permanently and the Thai Government would facilitate his entry through Surin on Friday.

ACM Sitthi said the talks between Prince Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen, scheduled at Phitsanulok House today, would make positive steps towards the Jakarta peace talks, scheduled for February 26.

Asked to comment on reports that Phnom Penh forces have recaptured Svay Check from rebels, the Prince said there would be no problem.

"I will defend it with my army," he said.

Asked if fighting would interrupt the talks, he said fighting and talks must be separate.

Prince Sihanouk also thanked Thailand for helping the resistance, however.

The Prince will talk about a ceasefire and interim government with Hun Sen, but he said: "It should be, in fact, an interim government with four parties for I think it's only a reasonable management to overcome the differences and achieve national reconciliation."

However, Prince Sihanouk also said the resistance may accept the Supreme Council if Hun Sen rejected the name of quadripartite government.

"We may set up what Hun Sen calls the Supreme Council to symbolize the union of all Cambodian factions and then go to the UN together to occupy the seat."

He added that the Supreme Council would be set up at the same time as establishment of a UN administration in Cambodia and that a ceasefire would come naturally.

"We must not expect Hun Sen and Sihanouk to solve everything. We could just facilitate a little for the Jakarta meeting."

The Phnom Penh premier will lunch with Army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut before meeting the Prince at Ban Phitsanulok about 2 p.m.

Reportage on Sihanouk-Hun Sen Discussions

Sihanouk Views Planned Topics

BK2102060090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0542 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 21 (AFP)—Cambodian guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said here Wednesday that he was going to discuss "all aspects" of the Cambodia war with Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen. The prince talked briefly to reporters before joining Mr. Hun Sen at a lunch hosted in their honour at a hotel here by Thai Armed Forces Chief General Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

Followers of Prince Sihanouk, Cambodia's former monarch, belong to a tripartite guerrilla coalition dominated by the Marxist Khmer Rouge fighting forces of the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh Government. The prince, who was to hold talks with Mr. Hun Sen later Wednesday, said he would "discuss all aspects that can bring peace to Cambodia" with the Phnom Penh leader.

Prince Sihanouk, in a grey suit, was greeted by Gen. Chawalit wearing his army uniform at the hotel where Mr. Hun Sen is staying. Mr. Hun Sen had earlier arrived here from the Laotian capital of Vientiane on a Thai military transport aircraft.

Prince Sihanouk and Mr. Hun Sen are also to meet Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan before holding their meeting.

Vietnam invaded Cambodia 11 years ago to overthrow a Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge regime and install a client government in Phnom Penh. The internal conflict has intensified since Hanoi announced it had withdrawn all its forces at the end of September.

Hun Sen Arrives 21 Feb

BK2102035090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0328 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 21 (AFP)—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen arrived here Wednesday for talks with resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, reporters at the airport said. Mr. Hun Sen, 38, made no statement after arriving on a Thai military C-130 transport aircraft from the Laotian capital Vientiane. He had left Phnom Penh Tuesday.

Prince Sihanouk, 68, is currently on a "private" visit to Thailand and has been staying at the seaside resort of Phatthaya, 150 kilometers (90 miles) southeast of here. The former Cambodian monarch has said that he would return to Cambodia on Friday after living in exile for 11 years.

His followers are part of a guerrilla coalition fighting the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh Government. The coalition also includes another non-Communist group and gets most of its military strength from the Khmer Rouge faction, which was overthrown from power in 1979 after Vietnam invaded its western neighbor.

Hun Sen Lunches With Sihanouk

BK2102113390 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1101 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 21—Chairman of the Cambodian Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister Hun Sen arrived in Bangkok Wednesday morning at the invitation of Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, reports an SPK correspondent from the capital of Thailand.

Chairman Hun Sen, [who] led a 16-strong delegation, was accompanied by Gen. Phat Akkhanitbut, general inspector of the Thai Armed Forces and Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's advisers Phansak Winyarat and Kraisak Chunhawan from Wattai Airport aboard a C-130 military aircraft which landed at Don Muang military air-terminal.

This is Chairman Hun Sen's fourth trip to Thailand to hold talks with Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

Chairman Hun Sen met with Thai Acting Supreme Commander Chawalit Yongchaiyut right after his arrival in Bangkok and had a luncheon with Prince Norodom Sihanouk at "Princess Hotel" in Bangkok.

Chairman Hun Sen is also scheduled to hold talks with the latter at Ban Phitsanulok offices of Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's advisers. The Hun Sen-Sihanouk fifth round of talks took place on July 24-26 at Rossy-en-France near Paris and La Celle-Saint-Cloud, France.

Hun Sen and his party arrived in Vientiane yesterday for a one-day stop-over in Laos. He was welcomed at Wattai Airport by Phoun Sipaseut, Lao vice prime minister and minister for foreign affairs. During his stop-over in Vientiane, Chairman Hun Sen paid a courtesy visit to and had talks with Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Sihanouk Views Military Claims

BK2102133890 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] At Phitsanulok House in Bangkok, the venue for the meeting scheduled for 1400 today of the two Cambodian leaders, Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Hun Sen, Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan arrived at 1330 to welcome the two Cambodian leaders. At about 1340, Prince Norodom Sihanouk arrived and was greeted by the prime minister. At 1350, Hun Sen arrived and was welcomed by the prime minister. General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Army commander in chief and acting supreme commander, was also present to welcome the two Cambodian leaders.

At 1400, the prime minister led Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Hun Sen into a meeting room of Phitsanulok House. The two Cambodian leaders were left alone for discussion.

At 1425, the prime minister granted an interview to a large group of reporters covering the meeting of the two Cambodian leaders. The prime minister offered thanks to the Army and Air Force chiefs who provided facilities at the arrivals of the two Cambodian leaders. He said the atmosphere at the meeting between Prince Sihanouk and Hun Sen was very good. Only the two of them engaged in the discussion on the Cambodian problem. The prime minister did not take part in the discussion.

The prime minister said that he believed there should be progress from the talks, or at least there should be some agreement reached from discussion over the five points planned for talks. He thought that the talks would last until evening hours. Hun Sen will leave for Cambodia tomorrow at 1600.

Suwit Yotmani, spokesman of the Prime Minister's Office, reported to newsmen at about 1440 that the atmosphere of today's meeting between the two Cambodian leaders was very good. In the morning, Army Commander Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut welcomed Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Heng Samrin Regime and had lunch with him. Hun Sen said that he was happy and thankful for the prime minister who arranged for this meeting between him and Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Prince Sihanouk, meanwhile, praised the prime minister as a great statesman, and said he was happy that Thailand was hosting this meeting for him and Hun Sen. The meeting, Sihanouk said, would contribute to the progress of the meeting of the four Cambodian factions in Jakarta, Indonesia, in the near future. It will contribute to a better climate at the coming meeting. The spokesman said that talks between the two Cambodian leaders would continue until this evening. Anyway, it was up to them how long they would like the talks to continue. The prime minister is willing to provide facilities for them if they wish to continue their talks until tomorrow. As for the results of the talks, he said Thailand knows nothing because it has not participated in the meeting. Thailand hopes that this meeting will be in the interest of Cambodia.

As the meeting between Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Hun Sen was going on, a message from Prince Norodom Sihanouk was brought to reporters. Prince Sihanouk stated in the message that he will return to Cambodia on 23 February when he will stay at the two places where he used to have his homes with his beloved Cambodian people. The two places are: Freedom commune and Independence commune. Prince Sihanouk also clarified the claims over control of areas in Cambodia. According to him, the CGDK forces control about one third of the country. He denied the report claiming that Hun Sen's forces controlled nine tenths of the entire area of the country. He said that the Khmer Rouge soldiers have taken control of villages in 100 communes altogether. Most of them are in rugged and mountainous terrains and far away from the Thai border. Prince Sihanouk did not mention Battambang and Siem Reap. Prince Sihanouk said that Svay Chek had not fallen to the CGDK forces.

Tie Banh Urges End to Resistance Arms Supplies

BK2102014590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Feb 90 p 5

[By Nauwarat Suksamran in Phnom Penh]

[Text] Cambodian Defence Minister Tie Banh has said that military aid from China, the United States and other

countries to the Cambodian resistance has increased despite the Vietnamese troop withdrawal last September.

Gen [General] Tic Banh said Thailand remains the major transit station for arms shipments originating in China and Singapore, as well as for logistical supplies and weapons acquired with funds from the United States.

"The Phnom Penh government's plea for all arms suppliers to stop assisting the resistance forces went unheeded despite the Vietnamese troop withdrawal," the defence minister said in an interview with THE NATION on Monday [19 February].

Tie Banh said the Phnom Penh government had sufficient evidence to prove that the Cambodian resistance forces—the Sihanoukist Nationalist Army, the Kampuchean People's National Liberation Front and the Khmer Rouge—are receiving increased and increasingly sophisticated military aid.

"Before the Vietnamese troop pull out, the resistance forces would send an average of 1,000 rounds of artillery shells against government military positions each day," he said. "Now the average daily shelling is something like 10,000 rounds a day."

"The Cambodian government calls on all parties concerned to terminate military aid to the resistance forces now that Vietnam had recalled its troops from Cambodia," he said.

The defence minister said Thai authorities have been actively involved in the transport of weapons and logistical supplies by providing the resistance forces with heavy trucks and other vehicles. He said Thai authorities are also known to procure small trucks owned by Thai villagers to transport weapons from Thai military outposts into Cambodia.

—Tie Banh dismissed resistance claims of the imminent capture of Sisophon and Battambang as propaganda, saying the resistance has been held back from the two western Cambodian towns by government soldiers.

However, he confirmed that resistance troops have been able to shell some of Battambang's outlying villages, but added that the government is still in control of Highway No. 10, which links Battambang with Phnom Penh and other provinces.

The minister conceded that the resistance has already taken Svay Chek, a sparsely populated town located about 15 kilometres from the Thai border, after the government forces abandoned the town to retain a more strategic line of defence.

"We left several towns to the resistance forces because we believed they were not worth defending," he said. "Besides, their location near the Thai border was also an advantage to the resistance forces."

He admitted that some Phnom Penh troops have been disheartened since Vietnamese troops left Cambodia but claimed that morale in general was high.

The resistance has advanced no more than 60 kms from the Thai border, when they attacked Varin district of Battambang, the minister said.

"The resistance assaulted Varin district but were repulsed by government troops within an hour. More than 100 resistance troops were killed and 300 others captured together with a large amount of weapons," he claimed.

The minister said over 4,000 resistance soldiers have died since the Vietnamese troop withdrawal four months ago, but he did not give casualty figures for government forces.

Tie Banh said the Phnom Penh government still lagged behind the resistance in psychological warfare and propaganda, but he added that the government had recently reached an agreement with Australia for the use of satellites for communications purpose.

"The use of communications via satellites will allow us to disseminate information to the outside world more effectively," he said.

Svay Chek 'Recaptured' by Phnom Penh Troops

BK2102015590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] Aranyaprathet—About 2,500 government troops backed by Soviet-built tanks recaptured the strategic western Cambodian town of Svay Chek in heavy fighting yesterday on the eve of peace talks between rival Cambodian leaders, Thai military sources said.

The long-awaited government counter-offensive began before dawn yesterday with heavy artillery, five Soviet-built T-54 tanks and about 2,500 troops thrown into the battle for Svay Chek, 295 km northwest of Phnom Penh, said a Thai border defence officer who monitors the situation inside Cambodia.

"They (Phnom Penh troops) completely recaptured the town this morning at about 10:30 a.m. after a five and one-half hour clash," said the officer who asked not to be further identified.

He said about 1,000 defenders from the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] were forced to retreat from the town they captured in December.

"The resistance abandoned Svay Chek and moved further west towards the Thai-Cambodian border," he said.

However the spokesman of the KPNLF High Command, Ok Serei Sopheak, yesterday denied that Svay Chek had fallen.

He said he had checked with his General Staff headquarters at 9 last night.

The headquarters confirmed that there had been some shelling as usual around Svay Chek but denied that the district had fallen.

"Svay Chek is still in the hands of our troops and has not fallen." he said.

Another Thai military source reported heavy fighting in the Svay Chek area and said attacking government forces had penetrated resistance defences, but said he did not know who controlled the depopulated town.

The attack was preceded by some of the heaviest shelling of the war, with the government forces using both artillery and Soviet-made multiple rocket launchers know as "Stalin organs," he said.

The source said some of the shelling was directed at a KPNLF base at Nong Chan, about 25 km west of Svay Chek.

He said four people were killed and several others wounded in the shelling.

If the capture of Svay Chek is confirmed and government forces are able to hold it, it will be the first major government success of a dry season in which a resistance push has had the government on the defensive.

Svay Chek guards the northern approach to the crossroads town and provincial capital of Sisophon, which the resistance announced was their next target.

The government attack came on the eve of talks between Prince Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen in Bangkok.

The attack on Svay Chek also came as a psychological blow to plans by the 67-year-old Sihanouk to return to live in the "liberated" zone.

Resistance officials said a house has already been built for the former monarch in an area northwest of Svay Chek. Sihanouk was scheduled to go to the area on Friday.

'Large Scale Counter-Offensive' Launched

BK2102111890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1109 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 21 (AFP)—A Cambodian guerrilla faction fighting Cambodia's Vietnam-installed government forces said here Wednesday that Phnom Penh troops had launched "a large scale counter-offensive" against its forces in northwest Cambodia.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) said in a communique that some 800 government troops, backed by assault tanks and heavy artillery, had begun attacks Monday on its forces in the area of Sisophon and Svay Chek.

Khieu Samphan's 12 Feb Reply to Ali Alatas

BK1802084590 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] On 12 February, Vice President Khieu Samphan sent another letter in reply to Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas' 8 February letter which emphasized the procedures and agenda of the informal meeting on Cambodia scheduled to be held in Jakarta from 26 to 28 February. Here is the text of Vice President Khieu Samphan's letter:

12 February 1990
To His Excellency Ali Alatas, Indonesian foreign minister, Jakarta.
Your Excellency:

I would like to thank Your Excellency for your reply as mentioned in your letter dated 8 February 1990 and for paying attention to my concerns as mentioned in my letter to you dated 4 February 1990. I would like also to thank Your Excellency for reaffirming in your letter that the informal meeting, or JIM [Jakarta informal meeting] in short, no longer exists, and stressing that the upcoming informal meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta will be held within the framework of the Paris international conference regarding its essence and its agenda and that the informal meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta will follow the Paris international conference's procedures, particularly the point which says any decision must be made by unanimous agreement, and its agenda on the settlement of all aspects within the framework of an overall solution.

I am satisfied with this affirmation by your excellency. I would like to inform you that I will lead a delegation to attend the informal meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta which is scheduled to be held from 26 to 28 February.

I hope that before and during this meeting, your excellency will listen to the opinion of all delegations. Therefore, I would like your excellency to permit me to express our opinion as all other delegations within the framework of a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem. In this connection, I would like your excellency to circulate Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's five-point peace plan as a document of the informal meeting on Cambodia.

I would like to emphasize two key points in this five-point peace plan as follows:

1. The withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia under the supervision of the United Nations jointly with representatives of the four Cambodian parties.
2. National reconciliation among all Cambodians through the establishment of an equal four-party Cambodian provisional government headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. This four-party Cambodian provisional government has the duty to organize a free and democratic election.

Now, as during the Paris international conference in August, we would like to stress in this five-point peace plan that the United Nations has a very important role in all stages of the process to settle the Cambodian problem comprehensively as follows:

1) To verify the withdrawal of all categories of the Vietnamese troops from Cambodia.
2) To supervise the cease-fire.
3) To supervise the disarming of all Cambodian factions in line with a concrete agreement.
4) To ensure conditions for the establishment of an equal four-party Cambodian provisional government headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.
5) To conduct, jointly with the four-party provisional government, a clear population census in order to ensure that the election proceeds correctly and effectively.
6) To ensure that the election proceeds in a free and democratic manner.
7) To dispatch a UN international peacekeeping force with sufficient staff and facilities to station in Cambodia

for an indefinite period of time in order to ensure peace, security, and stability in Cambodia.
8) To ensure that Cambodia remains an independent, neutral, and nonaligned country which enjoys its territorial integrity and forever pursues a liberal economic system and a multiparty liberal democratic system.

Please, your excellency, accept my highest regards once again.
[Signed] Khieu Samphan, Cambodian vice president in charge of Foreign Affairs

Stance on SRV Troop Pullout Reaffirmed

BK1302080790 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Station commentary: "A Complete Vietnamese Troop Pullout Under UN Supervision and Genuine Cambodian National Reconciliation Are Necessary Conditions for Solving the Cambodian Problem Politically"]

[Text] In the past few days, the Vietnamese enemy and its puppets and lackeys have talked incessantly about their deceitful maneuver and their so-called flexibility and concession. However, if we examine these in detail, we see that the Vietnamese enemy has nothing new, is not flexible, and has not made any concessions at all.

First, the Vietnamese enemy still refuses and avoids the issue of the withdrawal from Cambodia of all Vietnamese aggressor forces—forces disguised as Cambodian troops, secret forces hidden in the jungles, forces hiding among the Cambodian people, and illegal Vietnamese settlers—under effective UN control with the participation of the four Cambodian parties.

Second, the Vietnamese enemy continues to reject the establishment of a four-party provisional government and has instead carried out the maneuver of setting up two governments in Cambodia in an attempt to maintain the puppet regime and hide all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodia. Apart from this, the Vietnamese enemy only talks lightly about other issues, such as a UN role, a cease-fire, an end to outside assistance, and so on. What are the necessary conditions for solving the Cambodian problem politically?

1. The Cambodian problem is a result of the Hanoi Vietnamese sending hundreds of thousands of troops to invade Cambodia, a sovereign state and rightful member of the United Nations, most insolently trampling international law and the UN Charter. As for the present puppet regime in Phnom Penh, it is a regime propped up by Vietnam to hide its act of aggression. In Vietnam's puppet regime in Phnom Penh, there are over 200,000 Vietnamese aggressor forces hidden in the puppet army, puppet militia force, and among the Cambodian people, and tens of thousands of Vietnamese administrative staff in the puppet administration. Apart from this, over a million Vietnamese settlers cooperate with Vietnamese troops and administrative staff to occupy Cambodia. Therefore, to solve the Cambodian problem and let Cambodia have peace, security, independence, neutrality, and stability:

1. It is necessary to withdraw all of these Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia under effective UN control with the participation of the four Cambodian parties.
2. It is necessary to have genuine national reconciliation in which all Cambodians, regardless of their past and political tendencies, can take part in free, just, and democratic elections.

To achieve this, it is necessary to simultaneously dissolve both the puppet regime and the legitimate Cambodian national government, and set up an equal four-party provisional government headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. These two conditions are necessary for solving the Cambodian problem politically and comprehensively, which would restore peace, security, and stability in Cambodia.

Once these two key issues are resolved, other issues, such as a cease-fire and an end to military aid, can also be resolved.

However, since the Vietnamese enemy and puppets have already rejected these two necessary conditions, this means the Vietnamese enemy does not want to solve the Cambodian problem politically. It is still carrying out maneuvers to continue occupying Cambodia. Therefore, to solve the Cambodian problem comprehensively, justly, and definitively, it is necessary to continue pressuring Vietnam to accept a solution of the Cambodian problem in accordance with the above two principles.

SRV 'Tactics' at Upcoming Jakarta Talks Viewed

BK2102094590 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Station commentary: "Vietnam Tries To Divert the Upcoming 26-28 February Jakarta Informal Meeting From the Two Key Issues to a Political and Comprehensive Solution to the Cambodian Problem"]

[Text] On 15 February, Vietnamese diplomat Nguyen Trung told reporters that at the upcoming talks in Jakarta, Vietnam will change its tactics. It will stop talking about power sharing in setting up a provisional government and instead will focus on elections in Cambodia and Cambodia's neutrality.

These statements confirm that Vietnam is not sincere in achieving a political and comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem. Judging from Nguyen Trung's statements, Vietnam still avoids discussing two major key issues of a solution to the Cambodian problem—namely, the genuine withdrawal of all Vietnamese aggressor troops and forces from Cambodia under UN supervision and the establishment of an equal four-party provisional government headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. This means that Vietnam is trying to maintain

both the puppet regime it has propped up and all kinds of Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodia.

Solving the Cambodian problem means ending Vietnam's war of aggression and occupation in Cambodia. Therefore, if the regime Vietnam has installed and Vietnamese aggressor forces are still in place, how can the Cambodian problem be solved? How can elections be held and Cambodia's neutrality be established? It is obvious that statements issued by Vietnam on free and democratic elections and Cambodia's neutrality are just deceitful words. They are attempting to divert the upcoming Jakarta informal meeting from the issues of the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and all kinds of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia under the effective supervision of the United Nations and the four Cambodian parties, and the establishment of an equal four-party provisional government headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk—which are the keys to solving the Cambodian problem politically and comprehensively.

This clearly shows that since the Paris conference in July 1989, Vietnam has not changed. At the Paris conference, Vietnam tried to avoid discussing these two key issues. However, the majority of the countries attending the conference agreed to raise the two issues for discussion. This had greatly disgraced Vietnam.

Therefore, the 26-28 February upcoming Jakarta informal meeting—which it is said will be held within the framework of the Paris conference—will also discuss these two key issues, which are:

1. The withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops and all types of aggressor forces from Cambodia under the effective supervision of the United Nations and the four Cambodian parties; and
2. Establishment of an equal four-party provisional government headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to organize free and democratic elections in Cambodia under UN supervision.

Only when these two key issues are resolved can the Cambodian problem be comprehensively solved.

ANS Claims Destruction of Sisophon Arms Depot

BK2102023790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] Cambodian resistance forces loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk have destroyed one of the Phnom Penh government's biggest ammunition depots, in Sisophon Province, a statement by the resistance group said yesterday.

It claimed an ANS [National Sihanoukist Army] sabotage team from the 11th Brigade infiltrated Sisophon on February 1 with help from Heng Samrin troops.

The team, according to the report, planted explosives inside the compound, which contained heavy ammunition and light guns.

The explosion occurred at 2.57 a.m. and destroyed 1,000 tons of munitions and arms.

The blast, according to the ANS report, could be heard 40 kilometres away, while the light from the explosion could be seen about 30 kilometres away.

Civilians who fled from Sisophon to the ANS "liberated zone" in Thmar Pouk said explosions lasted until about 10.00 a.m.

The ANS report claimed there was real panic in Sisophon, adding that local Heng Samrin authorities have arrested about 400 civilians and high-ranking Phnom Penh officials for questioning.

Son Sann To Revive Resistance Plan in Jakarta

BK2102022790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] A Cambodian guerrilla leader said yesterday he will try to revive a peace plan already rejected by the Vietnamese-installed government. Son Sann, who heads one of three guerrilla groups, said he would push the plan again in peace talks next week in Jakarta, AP reports.

In an interview, he said the plan was better than that offered by Australia. The resistance plan calls for a transitional coalition government linking the guerrilla groups and the government.

The Australian proposal, which has been the centre of hopes for peace in recent months, gives the United Nations the interim administrative role.

Son Sann of the Khmer People's Liberation Front said Khmer Rouge guerrillas were near Phnom Penh.

Laos

Hun Sen, Delegation Depart for Bangkok 21 Feb

BK2102064590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] This morning, Hun Sen, State of Cambodian Council of Ministers chairman, and his party left Vientiane on a special Thai Air Force plane to visit the Kingdom of Thailand for two days at the invitation of General Chatchai Chunhawan, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, after making a one-day stopover in Vientiane.

General Phat Akkhanibut, general inspector of the Thai Armed Forces and representative of Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Thai military supreme commander and Army commander in chief; Kraisak Chunhawan, advisor to the prime minister; and a number of high-ranking Thai officials flew a C-130 aircraft of the Royal Thai Air Force to pick up Hun Sen and his party at Wattai Airport at 0945.

Seeing off Hun Sen and his party at Wattai Airport were Phoun Sipaseut, Council of Ministers vice chairman and foreign affairs minister; Maisouk Saisompheng, minister and head of the office of the party Central Committee and the office of the Council of Ministers; and a number of cadres concerned.

Long Kem, Cambodian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, also saw Hun Sen and his entourage off at the airport.

In 1989, Council of Ministers Chairman Hun Sen visited the Kingdom of Thailand three times at the invitation of General Chatchai Chunhawan, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, to seek ways to settle the Cambodian problem through political means.

During his fourth visit to Thailand, in addition to meeting with high-level Thai leaders, Hun Sen will meet with Prince Sihanouk.

Nouhak Phoumsavan Receives Soviet Delegation

BK1702135890 Vientiane KPL in English 0936 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Vientiane, February 17 (KPL)—Nouhak Phoumsavan, Politburo member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [CC], president of the People's Supreme Assembly [PSA], yesterday received here a courtesy call by G.I. Usmanov, secretary of the CPSU CC, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet, who is on a current visit to Laos. The PSA president, on the occasion, briefed the CPSU CC secretary about the restructuring process in Laos and thanked the USSR Supreme Soviet as well as the Soviet party and government for their consistent assistance and support to Laos. In his turn, the secretary informed the PSA president of the restructuring situation in the Soviet Union, especially the activities of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The sides reaffirmed the ever increasingly strengthened friendship and solidarity between the two countries' parties and governments as well as between the two assemblies—Laos and the USSR.

Party Instruction Given on 35th Anniversary

BK1902140590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0050 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Instruction No. 11 issued by the Secretariat of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee to party committees at all levels on celebration of the party's 35th anniversary—dated 3 February]

[Text] The 35th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], 22 March 1990, is approaching. Resolution No. 13, dated 21 March 1989, of the party Central Committee Political Bureau on organizing to celebrate the major festivals in 1990 clearly notes that the celebration and commemoration in 1990 must be used as an encouragement for our entire party, Army, and people to effect new changes in all respects and to joyously compete with one another in implementing and translating into reality the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth resolutions of the fourth party Central Committee and various resolutions or decrees of the Council of Ministers. This is aimed at fulfilling the various objectives outlined by the fourth party congress. For example, there are the objectives of promoting movements to turn to the grass roots and the countryside and to go up to mountainous regions to fulfill the agricultural and forestry projects in order to make this year's production season brilliantly successful, and to score great achievements in 1990—the final year of the implementation of the second five-year state plan.

On the other hand, the celebration of the party's 35th anniversary is coming at a time when the world is undergoing rapid and complicated change. In view of the situation and to meet the requirements, the party Central Committee Secretariat hereby issues instructions to party committees at all levels to organize the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the LPRP with profound and thorough contents and under forms that conform with the true circumstances. This should be done to educate and train the entire party, Army, and people to clearly understand the history of the revolutionary struggle of the LPRP, the victories and achievements gained by the party for our nation and people, and the roles and correct and clear-sighted leadership of the party; it should also be done to maintain determination to struggle against all slanderous propaganda campaigns as well as all schemes, tricks, and activities carried out by the enemies who have intended to create disturbances with the hope of overthrowing our new system.

On this basis, the celebration of this occasion is intended to strengthen solidarity and harmony within the party; increase confidence in the party's leadership; encourage the entire party, Army, and people to positively contribute to party building; raise the leadership role of the party and the spirit of responsibility of party members; strive to defend the party and its leadership; defend the country; and actively engage in labor to build the country and improve social life.

Orientations for organizing the celebration should be as follows:

1. Organize political life campaigns within the party by using party units as the bases. Comrade secretaries and members of party committees at all levels must guide the organization of political life campaigns on this occasion; in launching the campaigns, profound contents must be taken into consideration. The Propaganda and Training Board of the party Central Committee is authorized to compile and distribute the documents on this issue to all party committees and party units at all levels. In implementing the contents of the campaigns, the comrade secretaries and members of party committees must emphasize the history and traditions of the party and the leadership role of the party by relating them to their respective party units. They must then together discuss means to enhance the party's leadership role and raise the spirit of responsibility of party members. The political life campaigns must be organized on 22 March 1990.

2. Organize lectures and meetings on the traditions and historic cause of the party for cadres and state employees in various offices, organizations, factories or plants, schools, hospitals, cooperatives, and business units and

in various villages; encourage everyone to contribute views on the building and strengthening of the party in various grass roots. The central propaganda and training committee must effectively map out the plan and give direction for the organizing of activities. It must also supply all branches and localities with documents on the plan and direction.

3. Newspapers, radios, and television must carry features and news on the history, traditions, and obligations of the party and on achievements and model activities of the masses in carrying out tasks to welcome the founding anniversary of the party. Art, literature, and sports activities must also be organized by basing them on the practical conditions of each locality, office, and organization.

4. Organize meetings to review achievements scored in carrying out the emulation campaigns to welcome the party anniversary. Arrangements must also be made to promote and enthusiastically and repeatedly launch emulation campaigns in the next stage. The central trade union organization must effectively work out plans and set guidelines for organizing the campaigns.

5. The Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union must attentively carry out propaganda activities under various appropriate forms to educate and train all youths in accordance with the above-mentioned contents.

6. Organize rallies to commemorate the anniversary. At the center, the committee in charge of guiding the celebration of the major festival days in 1990 is authorized to coordinate with the party committee of Vientiane municipality in organizing a grand rally to mark the occasion. In provinces, grand rallies must also be organized with the provincial party and administrative committees as the hosts. In districts and cantons, rallies must be appropriately organized in conformity with practical conditions of each place.

Points that should be given attention during the celebration are that vigilance against the subversive and sabotage schemes of the enemies and ill-intentioned elements must be maintained, and that the contents and forms of the activities must be considered as significant in organizing the celebration.

7. Slogans:

1)—Long live the LPDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic]!
2)—Long live the LPRP—organizer and leader of all victories of the Lao revolution!
3)—Positively build and strengthen party units in all respects;
4)—Continue to effect new changes in order to raise the party's leadership role;
5)—Resolutely turn to the grass roots to consolidate, perfect, promote, and expand the popular democratic system;
6)—Strive to contribute to defending and developing the country and improving living conditions; and
7)—Long live world peace!

Upon receiving this instruction, the party committees at all levels must together study and organize to effectively implement it. After completing the implementation, they must report the achievements to the LPRP Central Committee Secretariat by the end of March 1990.

Ministry's Economic Report to Cabinet Cited

BK0902080990 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] According to KPL, in 1989 the economy of our country has developed at a considerably satisfactory pace. The total output of social production has increased by 18 percent and the national gross income by four percent, compared to the past year. The total earnings reaped from the various social production sectors were as follows: 65 percent from the agricultural sector, 12 percent from the industrial sector, 14 percent from the trading sector, and nine percent from other sectors.

The economic structure was composed of 35 percent from the state and collective sector and 65 percent from the private sector. These figures are quoted from a report on economic data presented by the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance to the Council of Ministers at an enlarged meeting convened between 29 January and 2 February.

According to the report, our country has suffered large deficits with and remains dependent on foreign countries. Inflation remains highly rampant while the living conditions of the people residing in remote and inaccessible rural areas and mountainous regions and of state employees are plagued with numerous difficulties. Therefore, it is necessary for us to translate the party's correct policy and line into detailed and comprehensive plans, regulations, and systems in conformity with reality so they can be effectively implemented. Control, supervision, and management work must be increased in a unified manner on the principle of democratic centralism and on the legal basis. The right to mastership and a sense of responsibility of the various services must be enhanced. Close cooperation must be promoted between the socioeconomic work and the national defense and public security maintenance work. Guidelines on the implementation of the new mechanisms and on turning to the grass roots, the countryside, and the mountainous regions must be strictly adhered to. The upgrading of organizational apparatuses must be rapidly carried out.

Trade Exchange With Vietnam Increases in 1989

BK2002110990 Vientiane KPL in English 0929 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Vientiane, Feb. 20 (KPL)—The amount of goods exchange between Laos and Vietnam was increased last year, said Somchai Sitthimolada, director of the Lao

Export-Import Company at a meeting held here on Feb. 17 to review the company's previous year activities.

According to his report, most of Lao exported items worth more than 2.5 million rubles are cardamom, coffee, gypsum, cigarettes and other agricultural products. The Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], in turn, imported 1.9 million rubles worth of milk, sugar, cotton, tissue, medicine and other kinds of goods from Vietnam.

Goods exchange between the two countries this year will be mainly necessary items. The volume of trade between the two countries will be reduced,

In this connection, goods exchange between Laos and other socialist countries executed by the company was also increased last year. The company's imported items covered 52 percent of the entire imported items.

Peace Delegation Returns Home From Athens

BK1702134890 Vientiane KPL in English 0942 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 17 (KPL)—A Lao peace delegation headed by Mr. Singkapo Sikhotchounnamali, president of the Lao Committee for World Peace, Solidarity and Friendship with Nations, arrived home on Feb. 13 from Athens, the Greek capital, after attending a congress of the World Peace Council held during Feb. 6-11, 1990.

Attended by over 500 participants from over 140 member countries, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, the congress discussed a number of issues such as the new concept on comprehensive security in the 1990s, ways and factors to eliminate nuclear, chemical, and mass-destruction weapons, the settlement of regional conflicts by peaceful and political means, the ecological guarantee for social-economic development, activities of mass-media for peace and for raising a fund for peace and others.

Discussion on regional problems pertaining to affairs in each continent was also held in the framework of the congress.

The congress also approved some amendments to regulations and structures of the organization, thus regional coordination centers in each continent will be set up.

A 40-member executive committee and a seven-member standing committee were elected at the end of the congress.

Trade Delegation Leaves for Burma 14 Feb

BK1702135090 Vientiane KPL in English 0939 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Vientiane, February 17 (KPL)—A Lao delegation led by Phao Bounnaphon, minister of trade and foreign economic relations, on Feb. 14 left here to pay an official visit to Myanmar [Burma] at the invitation of its minister of finance and commerce.

During the 5-day visit, both sides will exchange views on trade and mutual help and cooperation in business.

Seeing the delegation off at the airport were Dr. Kithong Vongsai, deputy minister of trade and foreign economic relations and charge d'affaires of Myanmar to Laos.

Phoun Sipaseut Receives New Ambassadors

BK2002110590 Vientiane KPL in English 0926 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Vientiane, Feb. 20 (KPL)—Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs, received here yesterday the ambassadors of the DPR [Democratic People's Republic] of Korea, Chang Yong-chun, the ambassador of the Republic of France, Daniel Dupont, and the ambassador of the Afghan Republic.

The heads of these foreign missions are newly appointed ambassadors to Laos.

Philippines

Relations With U.S. Said Not To Affect Loans

HK2102084490 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English 21 Feb 90 pp 1, 3

[By Raissa Espinosa-Robles]

[Text] A souring of U.S.-RP [Republic of the Philippines] relations including a pullout of United States military facilities in the Philippines won't affect future World Bank loans to the Philippines, a top World Bank official told THE BUSINESS STAR yesterday.

Donald C. Roth, treasurer and vice president of the World Bank, said that in the face of a bases pullout, the basis for any future loans would be "entirely with the Philippine government's handling of the Philippine economy."

Various U.S. groups including the U.S. State Department have stressed in the past that any pullout would adversely affect the country's ability to attract new investments and even new loans.

Asked to what extent the U.S. government influences WB [World Bank] policies since many WB officers are Americans and even former U.S. officials (like its current president, Barber Conable), Roth acknowledged that about 75% of the WB staff were Americans and about 95% worked in Washington D.C., which is also the U.S. seat of power. Roth himself worked there.

But Roth stressed that "the Bank is an institution that separates itself from the political processes of member-governments."

The Bank is owned by 152 member-governments, some of which may or may not want it to go into certain directions over a period of time, he added. The U.S.,

"our largest shareholder," has veto powers and could therefore affect the bank's major policies, he indicated.

He stated however that issues were resolved intemally through consensus-building and collegiality rather than through confrontation.

Recently, the Bank approved a $390-million energy sector loan for the Philippines even though the U.S. abstained from voting in favor of it because it claimed that the Aquino government was "insincere" in pursuing privatization.

In protest, Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao complained to U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt that the move was "a very bad signal at a very bad time." The signal came after the U.S. had reduced its contribution to the Philippine Assistance Program by $40 million and cut a further $96 million in military and economic commitments.

Estanislao also said, "I am sure (the Americans) are sending certain signals. I do not like those signals, and if they are trying to deliver a message, certainly that is not the appropriate way of delivering a message."

Roth was also asked if the Bank had found it easier to implement structural adjustment loans successfully when dealing with authoritarian governments.

Carefully choosing his words, he replied that the success of such loans depended on whether the projects had been well-designed or sustained in their implementation. He said that quite often, the implementation was painful and brought about economic hardships to the people because of the resulting inflation and high foreign exchange rates, etc.

This pain sometimes caused governments not to carry on, he said. Or sometimes, external conditions such as the oil shock of the 1970s affected projects, "You can make a judgment from all that," he concluded.

Ramos Proposes Joint Use of U.S. Facilities

HK2102033990 Quezon City Radyo Ng Bayan in Tagalog 0300 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] The government has moved toward obtaining a wider concession on the U.S. military bases by proposing a joint Philippine-U.S. use of the air and naval facilities in Clark and Subic bases.

Ramos' proposal to U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney during their meeting was considered by military officials as a major selling point for the retention of the U.S. bases in the country.

Meanwhile, Cheney hinted that the United States has no intention to pullout from Subic base in the next 10 years.

Students Said To Picket U.S. Embassy in Manila

HK2102103390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1015 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Manila, Feb 21 (AFP)—The United States insisted here Tuesday that it had exceeded its aid pledges to the Philippines since 1985 by 953.2 million dollars before the current shortfall.

Meanwhile, about 100 left-wing Filipino students Wednesday picketed the U.S. Embassy here to demand the removal of all U.S. military bases in the Philippines, eyewitnesses said.

Figures released by the U.S. Embassy showed that in fiscal years 1985 to 1989, Washington had provided 1.853 billion dollars in assistance to the country even though it was pledged to provide only 900 million dollars. This announcement came amid increasing criticism of the U.S. Government for failing to appropriate the 481 million dollars in assistance it had pledged to provide the country in 1990 in exchange for Manila's hosting of two large U.S. military bases in the north.

Washington has cut 96 million dollars from the 200 million dollars originally intended to modernize the Philippine military.

Protesters at the U.S. Embassy meanwhile held placards saying "dismantle all U.S. military bases now," while about 10 policemen looked on. They dispersed peacefully after an hour.

Exploratory talks between Manila and Washington on the future of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, the two biggest overseas U.S. facilities, are to begin in April but the cut in U.S. commitments have sparked calls for the bases to be removed after their lease expires in 1991.

U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney said during his visit here Monday that Washington would try to find other ways to restore some of the amount lost in the cuts.

House Opposition Favors Bases Removal

HK1802034790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] The House opposition has supported a proposal to remove U.S. bases in the country. House Minority Spokesman Rodolfo Albano said he is in favor of the bases removal after the expiry of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement. Albano issued the statement after a series of strong criticism hurled against U.S. President George Bush for his remark on President Aquino's refusal to meet U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney. Here is Congressman Albano:

[Begin recording] These Americans have become abusive. I am in favor of the bases removal, especially if these bases are being used as their gateway to Malacanang. Those phantoms should be sent away; get rid of

them, because if it were not for those phantoms, we would have been there. [end recording]

Albano clarified he was only joking when he said they should have been in Malacanang had it not been for the U.S. F-4 Phantom jets.

Exploratory Talks Set for April as Scheduled

HK2102035790 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 21 Feb 90 pp 1, 6

[Text] The exploratory talks on the bases issue between Manila and Washington have been scheduled for April and there appears to be nothing much congressmen can do to stop the negotiations.

At least 111 congressmen have signed a resolution asking the government to postpone the talks.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said last week that the talks would probably take place mid-April. This was confirmed yesterday by Rep. Jose de Venecia, head of the legislative panel in the Joint Executive-Legislative Bases Council.

The panel, with De Venecia and Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, met with U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney Monday. The congressman said Ramos and Cheney were informed of the new schedule for the talks.

De Venecia said the United States agreed to change the schedule of the talks because of "persistent coup rumors."

The panel met with Ramos and Cheney to push for the adoption of two measures drawn up by the joint council to restore the huge cuts the U.S. Congress made on the bases compensation package that Washington pledged.

One of the measures proposed by the council was for the U.S. Congress to approve a proposed "supplementary budget" to be taken from the budget set aside for Panama.

Another is to allow the Philippines to supply annually $30 million worth of local products to U.S. bases within the Asia-Pacific Region. The Philippine products would be entered into the U.S. bases as "PX goods" like the American products that enter duty-free into the country.

De Venecia said Cheney agreed to use his "moral and political influence" to get Washington's nod on the two measures to "ease tension in Manila."

At the DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs], Manglapus said the exploratory talks between Manila and Washington will cover "almost anything."

"That's the very definition of exploratory," Manglapus said as he pointed out that, contrary to what is perceived by some sectors, the coming talks have "no specific agenda."

The discussions, Manglapus said, will be informal to enable the government to determine its position on whether to renegotiate a new bases treaty or not on the continued use of the facilities by the Americans.

He declined comment on Ms. Aquino's remarks Monday during a "satellite summit" with four other Asian leaders on the nuclear weapons issue.

Ms. Aquino was quoted as saying the government panel will demand an answer on whether nuclear arms are stored in the U.S. bases here.

He also clarified "misinterpretations" that the bases compensation issue will be taken up during the talks.

The compensation issue, Manglapus said, will not be discussed "because the talks will just be exploratory, not treaty negotiations."

In the Senate, Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani said government efforts to disseminate information on the U.S. military bases were not enough.

Shahani, chairman of the Senate committee on foreign relations, said after a hearing of her committee that "there seems to be no real effort in the part of government to educate the people on the bases issue."

She made the statements after receiving copies of primers on the Military Bases Agreement produced by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Her committee is holding a series of public hearings on a bill seeking the holding of a nationwide information campaign on the bases issue.

Sen. Neptali Gonzales, member of the committee, said the government should lead in the information campaign by making known its position on whether or not to let the bases remain.

His position was supported by Shahani.

Testifying before the committee, Noel Tolentino, director of the Philippine Information Agency, said "historical facts" behind the negotiations and agreements on the bases "would make it very difficult for the government to launch an objective, impartial information campaign."

Tolentino said his immediate reaction after reviewing past agreements on the bases was: "Niloko lang tayo ng mga Kano" [We had been deceived by the Americans].

Movement Calls for Cancellation of Bases Talks

HK1702092390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Statement by R.C. Constantino of the Anti-Bases Democratic Movement on the U.S. bases issue; date not given—in English]

[Text] Mrs. Aquino and the Philippine Government should not be blinded by dollars [word indistinct]. There

can be no price for the sovereignty, survival, and dignity of our nation and our people. The development of our nation cannot be dependent on external forces we cannot control and whose aid and presence are used to subvert the interests and will of our people. We urge President Aquino to cancel the bases talks and act in the national interest by serving final and irrevocable notice of termination now.

Editorial Says U.S. 'Laying It on Thick'

HK1902050790 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 19 Feb 90 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. State Department joining anti-RP (Republic of the Philippines) drive"]

[Text] The United States Department of State is really laying it on thick. Time was when, in America's love-hate relationship (read that double-dealing) with the Philippines, Foggy Bottom was on our side, softening the impact of whatever the war freaks of the Department of Defense or the Pentagon and the poltergeists of the Central Intelligence Agency dished out against us. But that policy may have become extinct with the exit of former Secretary of State George Shultz and his yellow Cory doll.

Today, the state department under Howard Baker III has assumed a new role—hounding Americans in the Philippines with caveats. The other day, the department urged Americans to avoid areas of "ongoing communist insurgency" and "criminal activity" and to be careful at night in entertainment districts.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS, reporting from Washington, quoted the department statement that "since at any given time there may be unsettled conditions in any area of the Philippines, special care should be exercised when travelling via public conveyances as well as private vehicles. Except for major urban areas, road travel at night should be avoided and only national highways and paved roads should be used."

The warning is understandable, of course, if it is taken in the context of the threat of the communist and secessionist rebels. For the fact is, these twin insurgencies are still galloping, despite the claims of Gen. Renato de Villa, and his boys that the black stallions of Benito Tiamzon and Nur Musuari have—or are about to—become dead meat. Time and again, insurgents of both the Communist Party of the Philippines New People's Army and the Moro National Liberation Front have issued warnings that, on account of American meddling in the anti-insurgency campaign, the dissidents will henceforth be targetting not only American servicemen but American civilians as well. The rebels have made sure the Americans do not take the warnings lightly and Filipinos certainly understand Washington's apprehension over rebel threats to U.S. citizens.

But we cannot understand the warning of the Baker-era state department about alleged dangers posed to American nationals by "criminal activities" in the entertainment district of some cities like Cebu. Have our cities become worse than New York City's 42nd Street or San Francisco's Tenderloin District or Chicago's Southside?

At the rate the relations between the Philipines and the United States are deteriorating, we expect that warning to be updated shortly to include practically the entire country.

For the sake of the Philippines, we honestly hope the Americans heed the state department warning. Considering the emerging anti-bases scenario, the tell-tale collusion between the snubbed Dick Cheney and the Hound of Bakersville, and the increasing American shrillness about the ineptitude of the Manila government, the Bush administration may just decide to send troops here to protect American lives. Or save the Filipinos from their government.

And only incidentally, make sure the U.S. bases are made to stay.

Editorial Criticizes U.S., Military Rebels

HK1902051390 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 19 Feb 90 p 4

[Editorial: "To hell with the U.S. and RAM (Reform the Armed Forces Movement"]

[Text] At the beginning of February, sources deemed highly reliable (based on the accuracy of their information in the past), put February 14 as the date of the next coup, and then February 19. Other dates: February 21 or the end of February. And finally March 15. The vagaries of the stock exchanges in the past few weeks, the beating that very good share offerings have taken in the bourses, shows the panic into which the public is thrown whenever one of these dates approaches. This schedule was obviously leaked by the military rebels and the obvious intention is to exhaust a government perpetually on the alert until it lets down its guard when the real thing strikes. It is also meant to create the impression of an ongoing military rebellion that is still a force to be reckoned with because it has, since the December coup, dictated the pace of economic activity, the temper of the public, and the main focus of government attention.

What is astounding is not the temerity of announcing a coup beforehand, but the arrogance of saying, in effect, that, after one of these dates, there will be a new government ruling over the Filipinos. And it will be a dictatorial government totally immune to public opinion and absolutely indifferent to any public concerns other than those to be defined by thus far hidden military leaders. The assumption of leaking out these dates is that the people amount to nothing in the Philippine political equation and that it is possible—more, it is easy—to foist upon them a government of men whose identities

need not be revealed, and whose qualifications for government must remain a mystery until long after they are in absolute power.

These dates released by the military rebels are supposed to show the impunity with which the military rebellion continues to operate in our country, and the weakness and ineptness of the Aquino government. Perhaps. But what it really reveals is the profound contempt in which the military rebels hold our people. This is the best reason to tell the RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] to go to hell. Just as the complicity of the U.S. media with the U.S. government in the degradation of for telling that government to join them [sentence as published.].

Reportage on Comments of USSR's Gerasimov

Comment on German Reunification

HK2102104790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1031 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Manila, Feb 21 (AFP)—The chief spokesman for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said here Wednesday that Moscow favored including Poland in international exploratory talks on German reunification.

Gennadiy Gerasimov told a press conference here that Soviet leaders "understand that Poland has the right because Poland suffered most during the war."

"They lost more in terms of the population," he said. "Every one out of four Poles was killed."

He added that the Poles "now have the territory which used to be German territory."

Mr. Gerasimov was here as a guest speaker at an Asian media conference.

Poland has expressed its desire to be included in international talks on the issue of German reunification.

Japan's Future Role Viewed

HK2102052590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0505 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Manila, Feb 21 (AFP)—Moscow does not foresee Japan re-emerging as a military power in the Asia-Pacific region, Soviet government spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov said here Wednesday.

"Japan is conquering the power with its electronics and the flow of capital," Mr. Gerasimov said at a press conference in Manila, where he has been a guest speaker at an Asian media conference.

"I don't see Japan (becoming) a great military power," he said when the question was put to him.

With "the over-all political situation in the Pacific, and now with the so-called Soviet threat or menace receding, there is no reason to explain to the public why Japan should be (a) military power," Mr. Gerasimov said.

He also said the United States has "more (troops) than they really need in the Pacific," but refused to comment when asked how many U.S. troops Moscow thought should be pulled out from the region.

U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney on Monday said here in a news conference during an overnight Philippine visit that the United States was contemplating a "modest change" in U.S. troop deployment in the region.

There are currently 17,000 U.S. troops stationed in the Philippines, 43,000 in South Korea and 59,000 in Japan.

Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said on Monday about 2,000 of the 17,000 U.S. military personnel stationed in the Philippines were to be pulled out in the next three years.

Changes To 'Affect' Communists

HK2102062190 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0600 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] An official of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said that the present political changes in Eastern Europe will affect communist movements around the world, including that in the Philippines. The statement was made by Gennadiy Gerasimov, official spokesman of Gorbachev, in a news conference. He added that each individual communist group should determine whether it is going on the correct path.

Gerasimov stressed that, contrary to U.S. assertions, his country no longer has any forces stationed at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam.

Gerasimov was one of the speakers at the One Asia Assembly held in the Philippine International Convention Center.

ICO Assures No Interference in Muslim Conflict

HK1702042790 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] assured the Philippines it supports unity and will not interfere in the Muslim Mindanao conflict. Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus told this at the Senate to allay fears that ICO might interfere in the country's affairs, particularly on the election for local officials in the Muslim Mindanao autonomous region which is held today.

Manglapus said that in his meeting with ICO's General Secretary Hamid 'Al Gabid, the Muslim leader emphasized that the ICO is an organization that supports unification efforts and does not meddle in the internal affairs of other countries. He, however, said that the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF], an observer member of the ICO, is opposed to the Organic Act because it is allegedly a violation to the Tripoli Agreement. He expressed the hope that the Philippines and the MNLF could resolve this problem. Manglapus said the

government is prepared to talk to the MNLF if the group unites its factions, adding that the ICO could assist in uniting the MNLF factions.

Aquino Addresses Military Academy Graduates

HK1902071990 Quezon City People's Television 4 in English 0217 GMT 18 February 90

[Speech by President Corazon C. Aquino at the Philippine Military Academy commencement rites in Baguio City—live in English—slantlines denote passage in Tagalog]

[Text] Brigadier General Arturo Enrile, Secretary Fidel Ramos, General Renato de Villa, Colonel Amal Evangelista, the Bigkis Lahi [link with the nation] class and their beloved parents, your excellencies of the diplomatic corps, fellow workers in government, officers, men and women of the Philippine Military Academy [PMA], honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

A rites of passage is once again upon us as another class leaves the academy for the nation and the service of a lifetime. Saluting this institution renewed by every graduation, I congratulate its present graduates and their parents.

To the Class of 1990, your graduation today is a much awaited bounty of our people's continuing rejection of dictatorship. You chose to join the military profession in the year of People Power. You are then all the more expected to be true and real soldiers of the people. You have thus far indicated a faithful adherence to your nom de guerre, bigkis lahi. Your solid leadership of the cadet corps last December in support of our duly-constituted government was in no small measure crucial in turning the tide against our enemies. And your boldness in breaking once and for all the humiliating tradition of hazing have definitely brought you closer to the hearts and sentiments of the people.

Tenderness and compassion do not make a soldier less a soldier. Fairness, justice and human compassion are the hallmarks of effective leadership, even among the military. But don't get me wrong. You must by all means hold on to your warrior spirits. If you must fight, then fight as hard as you can. Against the toughest adversaries, remember that your will to win shall remain paramount. Strike hard for our people so they will continue to live in freedom under our regained democracy.

As our nation fortifies itself, measure after measure, against attempts that seek to topple our democracy, I reiterate my call for the cooperation of everybody, civilian and military alike. For time's winged chariot is hard on our back. We can no longer afford setbacks to our gains. We have to unite now and stand steadfast on the side of the common good.

For the past 4 years, I have come to honor this institution every graduation day and I will keep on coming back year after year for as long as I am the president of this nation. I have kept my faith in this institution and everything good that it signifies. Time and again, the great triumvirate of courage, integrity, and loyalty has proved its true mettle at home and abroad, from headquarters all the way to the fields.

Many who have come before you have been tested and many have proven themselves, some at the expense of their lives. They have learned the difficulty of fighting a war for democracy, of fighting for its honor and integrity. There will be more Lieutenant Edgardo Dizons and many more Lieutenant Felix Brawners, two heros of the republic. Some of them will come from this class who will defend the Filipino people with their lives. So let the best of those before you be your heroes. Let only the best in you prevail in your role as servants and protectors of the people. And let there be no doubt that when freedom is in danger, there are and can be no fence-sitters and opportunists among your ranks. Rather, the populace, civilian and military alike, must be one in rejecting any and all malicious attempts to undermine our democratic institutions.

Even now, as we relentlessly run after the culprits, only an unflinching conviction and commitment for a good cause can finally bring the enemies to their deserved end. Let no soldier hide or provide false testimonies in favor of evil. Let no civilian allow himself to be used as shield and comfort to the hunted in their flight. We must succeed in the apprehension of these offenders so we can live in peace and harmony.

On the other hand, this is the opportune moment to take a hard look at ourselves. Let us continue to probe into possible institutional defects. The exorcism of hazing from the academy's tradition should only signal a beginning of profound reforms. For the function of sound military education is to ensure that soldiers become true protectors of the people, soldiers who are friends and allies, not enemies or tyrants. Let us expand this probe to the other institutions where the leadership and abilities of young soldiers will be tested and challenged. I refer to the institutions within the military organization which have been found in need of major changes and improvements. From the quality of field training to the system of providing for the welfare of its members, all these must be reviewed as they are in fact already being reviewed with the end of providing the men and women of the military with the proper resources that they need to properly execute their functions and responsibilities.

You must know that I have had meetings with your officers and nco's [noncommissioned officers] to provide me with additional insights, not only on the large problems of the military establishmen but the small problems of the enlisted men as well which tend to prevent you from showing the best that is expected from you. From the profound concerns to the mundane problems, I have heard many from them. And I assure you that these are and will be properly addressed.

Though bringing up such problems as the quality of your supplies and the present promotion system has been derided by many as problems which should not be brought up to the commander in chief, I say that unless these small problems are properly and effectively addressed, solutions to the bigger problems will be difficult to achieve.

The PMAer whose four years of education and training are subsidized by the people's money need not be reminded of his commitment to reciprocate this generosity. Our people expect from each graduate of this institution a high degree of moral leadership at all times, whether in war or in peace.

You offer no less than your life the moment you said yes to your military calling. Since the life that you have to offer is of priceless value, never should you allow it to be tainted by personal ambitions and lust for power. Never allow your idealism to be desecrated by those whose only desire is to grab power for selfish ends.

All institutions involved in the molding of our youth, are enjoined to take a hard look at themselves. We have no need for citizens who do nothing but hate and be hated in turn, plot and be plotted against, for such men will pass their whole lives in terror and eventually bring themselves and their followers to ruin.

The great task of nationbuilding needs today more than ever citizens who can transcend petty and personal interests so that we can truly affirm with great conviction that indeed, the Filipino people is worth dying for.

To the members of Class 1990 whom I particularly address today and whose oath of duty as officers of the Armed Forces shall be administered shortly hereafter, let me bring added dimension to the import and great moment of your commission. To begin, any man qualifying to be an officer in our nation's armed forces takes an oath to uphold the Constitution against all enemies, foreign or domestic, to bear true allegiance to democratic ideals and to discharge faithfully the duties of his office. This commitment is absolute and should not be clouded with even a hint of mental or moral reservation. No other profession within the society faces as high an expectation from the people as the military profession which you young men have chosen to serve. And by this esteem from our citizenry, you must now consider your commissions as officers with great pride and sobriety, knowing that such status is attended by exceptional and unremitting responsibilities. That is why there is such extreme emphasis on the imperative of personal honor in the military officer, not only for the future of our arms, but the well-being of our people. By this touchstone, our people are assured the strength of character in the military officers, fidelity, valor, patriotism and ability is the safeguard of our nation's welfare. Anything less than exemplary conduct is therefore unworthy of the commission. From this day on, you will take up duties and assume roles designed to enhance the nation's security and stability and contribute to the healing of our nation's spirits and the realization of our people's unity.

The byword I finally leave with you, Class of 1990, is: Dedicate yourselves totally to the service of our country and our people. Allow me to end with this line: Display the true nature of the relationship and obligation which should exist between you, young officers, and our people. If you like people, if you seek contacts with them, rather than hide yourself in a corner, if you study your fellowmen sympathethically, if you try consistently to contribute something to their success and happiness, if you are reasonably generous with your thoughts and your time, you will get along with superiors as well as subordinates. In fact, with the human race itself.

/I wholeheartedly congratulate you on this day of your graduation. I sincerely hope that you will live up to the expectations of your loved ones and of the entire Filipino nation. May God bless us all. Thank you and good morning to all./ [applause]

Rebel Soldiers Claim They Jammed Aquino Speech

HK2002103390 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The rebel soldiers announced that they are responsible for the interference on video and audio signals on Channel 4 while President Aquino was delivering a speech at the Philippine Military Academy graduation causing bad television reception. The president's 15-minute speech last Sunday was cut 18 times. The Reform the Armed Forces Movement boasted it had the ability to totally cut media coverage of the president to prove that they could move around the campus amid the tightest security. The rebel soldiers claimed they wanted to irritate the president and make her realize that she lacks the ability to control the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Channel 4 engineers claimed that the interference came from inside the camp.

Jamming of Aquino Speech Denied

HK2102094190 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Malacanang refuted a statement by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, or RAM, that it had successfully jammed President Aquino's speech in Baguio City last Sunday. According to Presidential Security Group [PSG] chief Colonel Voltaire Gazmin, the interference came from radio sets used by PSG members as part of the security measures of that day.

[Begin recording by unidentified reporter in English] The other question, the so-called transmission interruption of the president in Baguio, that they claimed to be arising from the acts of rebel soldiers. The report of the security, the PSG, through Colonel Gazmin is that this is not true. The interference was caused by the presence of radios used by the security men who were carrying on

operations at the time. This is a natural effect of [words indistinct] interruption in transmission of television broadcast transmission. [end recording]

Security Tightened as Coup Leaders Sighted

HK1702040990 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] In Baguio City, the military clamped down tight security measures in the wake of intelligence reports that two high-ranking rebel soldiers were sighted in the city. Highly placed military sources said Constabulary Lieutenant Colonel Rodolfo Tor and Army Major Abraham Purugganan, two of the high-ranking leaders of the December coup attempt, were spotted in the area, apparently on a mission to contact their classmates and solicit support to the rebel cause.

Tor and Purugganan are said to be the principal recruiters of the rebel forces which staged the sixth coup attempt last 1 to 9 December. Extra tight security measures have been imposed by the military in connection with the PMA [Philippine Military Academy] graduation rites tomorrow [18 February] as President Aquino and high-ranking armed forces officials and foreign guests start to arrive today.

Security Adviser Warns of Communist Offensive

HK2102100590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] National Security Adviser Rafael Ileto announced today that communist rebels have launched a new series of violent actions in view of the approaching Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] Central Committee Conference. However, Ileto also assured that the military is fully prepared to cope with any communist operations.

Here is a statement by Ileto.

[Begin recording] [Ileto in English] Well, they have in fact started a few major offensives in ...[changes thought] the papers the other day came out... I think they are in a position because of this coming conference. They are trying to show that they are still a force to contend with and they might do a few things before that session next month. But I think we are prepared to meet all those contingencies.

[Reporter] Are they ready to attain strategic parity?

[Ileto] No, we definitely say they are not.

[Reporter] Are we ready to offer them the hands of peace?

[Ileto] We don't know about negotiation or peace talks. We have not considered that at the moment. We still believe the policy should be no peace talks at this time. [end recording]

De Villa Discounts RAM-NPA Alliance

HK2102100990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] The people will not support any alliance between the rightist Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM] and the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA [New People's Army] which seeks to set up a communist government in the country. This announcement was made by Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa before the 13th Philippines-Japan Joint Economic Meeting at the Manila Hotel.

De Villa explained that the majority of Filipino people remain true to democracy and will not tolerate the resurgence of dictatorship. He also said that this was the reason for the failure of previous coup d'etats.

Intelligence Source Says Plotters 'Divided'

HK2102094590 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] A military intelligence source assessed that members of the rightist rebel group of coup plotters are not only divided into the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM] and the Soldiers of the Filipino People's [SFP] groups but into four separate groups. The source said that the original RAM-SFP, comprising soldiers, Marcos loyalist officers, and reformists, are now considered divided into four groups. These were identified as the politically motivated RAM group under Honasan; the Marcos loyalists under former General Jose Maria Zumel; the nationalist and principled group of professional military men; and the group of junior military officers who are members of the Young Officers Union.

The four separate groups, according to the source, have different views on why the Aquino government needs to be replaced and on how to pursue the fight against it. It stressed that the four rightist coup groups are far from being unified and will not succeed in their plan to launch another coup. This, he added, is because the politically motivated group under Honasan may exploit the efforts of the whole movement to advance the personal interests of several politicians. However, he said that this political gimmick may not be accepted by the younger, nationalist, and principled officers.

Drop in Rebel Controlled Barangays Reported

HK1402023190 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Brigadier General Romeo Zulueta, Regional Command 6 commander in Western Visayas disclosed in a year end report that the number of rebel infiltrated barangays has gone down to only 649. Zulueta trusts that the decrease in the number of NPA [New People's Army] influenced barangays from 1,022 to 649 was attained through intensified and continuous military operations against the insurgents and the gradual winning of mass support.

On the criminality rate, Zulueta said Western Visayas now ranks fifth nationwide compared to its fouth place last year. He also disclosed that four New People's Army camps were discovered. Two were the main camps of the communists' southern front committee.

Communist Rebels Killed in Misamis Offensive

HK1402022790 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] About 90 communist guerillas were killed and more than 100 wounded when military planes bombed a rebel stronghold in Mindanao last week according to a captured guerilla.

The military said two soldiers were killed and 14 were wounded during a week-long battle ending last Friday in Balingangsag municipality, Misamis Oriental. It said government forces used bomber planes and five helicopter gunships to pound the rebels' mountain camp in the bloodiest fighting this year with guerillas of the New People's Army [NPA] who have been raging an insurgency for 30 years.

The captured rebel, Loreto Castillo, was among those who escaped during the attack but was later arrested by the military. The bombs hit our logistics command post and about 90 were killed, said Castillo in an interview. He said their combat leaders left them and it was [words indistinct]. The total death toll could not be verified by independent sources. The military earlier reported killing 67 rebels in another attack on an NPA camp in Zamboanga del Sur last week.

MNLF Cuts Off Power on Eve of Mindanao Polls

HK1802004090 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 17 Feb 90 p 4

[By Mar-Vic Cagurangan and Nash Maulana with a report from D. Borje]

[Text] Cotabato City—Mindanao separatist rebels burned a main power line running between Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao, plunging 26 towns in two provinces into darkness Friday, the eve of the first elections in the Mindanao autonomous region.

Reports said the main line of the Maguindanao Electric Cooperative running from Ampatuan and Esperanza town was blown up at about 6:30 p.m. Friday.

Brig. Gen. Gumersindo Yap, chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, however, gave assurances that the military was ready to thwart any attempt by the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to disrupt the elections on Saturday.

Earlier, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), a faction of the MNLF, assured the military that it would not sabotage the elections.

A total of 896,352 voters in the four provinces comprising the Mindanao autonomous region will choose a regional governor, vice governor and 21 members of the regional assembly.

The four provinces covered by the autonomous region are Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

Voting starts at 7 a.m. Saturday. The canvassing of votes starts at 3 p.m.

Statistics from the Commission on Elections (Comelec) show that Maguindanao has the largest voting population with 276,343 voters, followed by Lanao del Sur, with 246,290.

Contending for the position of regional governor are former Maguindanao Governor Zacarias Candao (LDP) [struggle of Philippine Democrats], former House Minority Leader, Mohamad Ali Dimaporo (KBL [New Society Movement]-Nacionalista Party) and independent candidates Ijirani Iladji Limpasan of Sulu and Datu Mando Mamalinta of Maguindanao.

Political observers have narrowed down the contest between Candao and Dimaporo.

Candidates for vice governor are mostly Tausugs, with one candidate each from Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao.

Running for vice governor are Alim Edris Basir of Lanao del Sur; Amilil Magadiuk, a former MNLF commander from Maguindanao; Benjamin Loong (LDP) of Sulu; Abdul Karim Mariwa Ladjamil; independents Pershing Tulawie and Abdulah Tiburon, both from Sulu; and oppositionist Nur Hussein Ututalum, also from Sulu.

The regional assembly will be composed of three representatives from each district.

The four provinces have seven districts each. The number of candidates for each province are as follows: Lanao del Sur (two districts) 54 candidates; Sulu (two districts) 22; Maguindanao, (two districts) 41; and Tawi-Tawi (one district) 20.

Leaders of the major political parties predicted victory for their candidates.

Vice President Salvador H. Laurel, Nacionalista Party president, predicted a 65-35 victory for Dimaporo.

Speaking at a big opposition rally in North Cotabato, Laurel said the popularity and "long-tested political leadership" of Dimaporo will spell the difference.

He said the all-out administration support for Candao is likely to backfire because of the people's disenchantment with the Aquino administration.

But Sen. Neptali Gonzales, LDP president, predicted that Candao will win in Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. Lanao del Sur is the bailiwick of Dimaporo.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., national chairman of the PDP-Laban [People's Democratic Party-Nation's Strength], said Dimaporo will win in all the four provinces in the autonomous region.

Sen. Santanina T. Rasul, a Muslim leader from Sulu, noted that based on the the size of the political rallies of Dimaporo and Candao, the former appeared to have a bigger following. Candao, however, has the support of the administration.

Sen. Maintal Tamano, a provincemate of Dimaporo, has been campaigning for his wife, an independent candidate for member of the regional assembly.

Meanwhile, lawyer Victoria Estoesta, chief of the Comelec's education and information division, said a liquor ban was imposed starting midnight Thursday in the autonomous region. The ban will be lifted at midnight tonight.

Estoesta also said troops have been deployed to the polling areas to secure peace and order.

The autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao was created under Republic Act 6734 (also known as the Organic act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao), which was ratified by the four provinces on November 19, 1989.

The autonomy was offered to nine cities and 13 provinces in the South.

Bomb Explodes in Front of Election Office

HK1702045390 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] A homemade bomb grenade [as heard] exploded last night in front of the Comelec [Commission on Election] office in Jolo, Sulu, but no one was injured. Here are the details from Baby Macapagal, Zamboanga City:

[Begin recording] According to a report by Radyo ng Bayan, Jolo, the Comelec gate was destroyed but no one was hurt. In an interview by DXSM, Radyo ng Bayan, Jolo, with Region 9 Constabulary Commander Colonel Roger Deinla, who is presently in Jolo to supervise the election here, he said that the explosion was very minor and that the public should not be worried. He added that the explosion had nothing to do with the election but did not give any explanation.

Meanwhile, residents in Barangay San Raymundo, town proper of Jolo, found a hand grenade. It did not explode, but was presumed it was deliberately laid to scare voters in the town. [end recording]

Thailand

De Michelis To Encourage EC Ties With Vietnam

BK2002010790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Feb 90 p 7

[Text] The European Community will soon review its relations with Vietnam according to Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis.

De Michelis, who assumes the EC presidency in July, said he would encourage the EC to open diplomatic and economic relations with Vietnam.

De Michelis was in Bangkok yesterday for meetings with Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila.

He was completing a four-country ASEAN tour which included attending the EC-ASEAN meeting in Kuching, Malaysia.

De Michelis said that while there was as yet no official EC position on resuming relations with Vietnam, the question would be discussed at the next meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EC.

The question has already been discussed informally in Kuching.

"We discussed not total resumption, but a starting of diplomatic relations between the EC and Vietnam," de Michelis said.

"I am personally convinced, as the Italian Foreign Minister, that if negotiations on the Cambodian issue go in the right direction it will be a positive thing to start diplomatic relations between the EC and Vietnam.

Speaking of the Italian position, he said, "We do hope that things in Cambodia go in the right direction, and we believe the best way of helping this process is to reduce the isolation of Vietnam, not increase it."

He announced that Italy would resume economic aid to Vietnam. An agreement on economic cooperation was signed in December 1989.

"As a result of this agreement we have decided to convene a first meeting of the Italian-Vietnamese joint commission next April in Rome."

De Michelis expects Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach to attend the meeting.

They will negotiate a three-year aid package.

"The Italian position is in favour of a similar decision by the other European donors, and I do repeat our position is in favour of the start of diplomatic and economic relations between the EC and Vietnam.

"This is from our point of view strictly connected with the Cambodian issue," de Michelis said.

"We have taken this position as a consequence of the decision made by the Vietnamese Government in respect to Cambodia, starting with the retreat of the troops and the continuing acceptance of the UN's plan and so on.

"If the Cambodian situation worsens things will be far more difficult for relations between the European Community and Vietnam."

De Michelis said the Cambodian issue would be considered to be going "in the right direction" if a decision on the country's future could be worked out "as soon as possible".

"That means April or May," he added.

De Michelis said agreement would have to be reached on a "Namibia-type intervention".

"I do hope that a compromise can be hammered out within the framework of the Paris conference."

De Michelis would not confirm reports that EC members plan to withdraw their support for the Cambodian coalition government's seat in the United Nations.

He would only say that Italy supported United Nations intervention, and within the next few days would make a financial contribution towards UN intervention.

De Michelis said he was awaiting the outcome of the planned meeting between Prince Sihanouk and Hun Sen "with great interest".

The EC has not agreed to support Britain's position on the forced repatriation of refugees, de Michelis said.

"We have never discussed the issue at the official level in the Community," he said.

The minister added that he did not know if repatriation would be discussed in the future, but for the moment it appeared the EC agenda was already full with other matters.

De Michelis told reporters that he stopped in Thailand to convey Italy's wish to revitalise relations between Europe and Southeast Asia.

Europe had turned its attention inward at the risk of diminishing its interest in Asia, he said.

Only five of the 12 EC countries attended the joint meeting in Kuching.

"I am convinced of the necessity within the next few months of re-launching relations between Western Europe and this part of the world," de Michelis said.

De Michelis said he feared the potential development of opposing economic blocs in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

De Michelis said Italy had "a clear political will" to intensify relations with Thailand and other Asian countries.

"But political will is not enough," he said.

"The private sector follows the rule of profits, and there are many opportunities now in Central Europe."

Political and economic action must be taken quickly, he said.

De Michelis reported that several common decisions had been reached in his meetings with Prime Minister Chatchai and ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi.

An agreement for the protection of direct investments in both countries would be negotiated "very rapidly".

In addition, the Italian minister said, "We think it is necessary to have a new agreement on economic and trade relations by the end of the year."

Steel, petrochemicals, shipyards and port infrastructure were identified as future areas of involvement for Italian business in Thailand.

It was agreed that twice-yearly meetings will be held between Thai and Italian business people.

The minister encouraged Thailand to become more involved in the changes in Eastern Europe, and promised that Italy would increase its involvement in ASEAN.

Further Coverage of Reactions to Saudi Murders

PLO Offers To Help

BK1702112690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1104 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 17 (AFP)—A senior PLO official has promised to help persuade Riyadh and other Arab countries that the February 1 killings of three Saudi diplomats here were not Thailand's fault, a Foreign Ministry official said Saturday [17 February].

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Deputy Foreign Minister Abdullatif Abu Heglah said upon his arrival here Friday he was optimistic that Thai-Saudi relations would not be further strained by the killing of the Saudi diplomats earlier this month, said the official, who requested anonymity. The official quoted Mr. Heglah as saying he would try to persuade Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries that the killings of the diplomats were not the fault of the Bangkok government. Mr. Heglah and two other PLO senior officials are on an unofficial three-day visit here aimed at promoting recognition of the Palestinian state and cooperation on trade, the official said.

Thailand maintains diplomatic relations with Israel and does not recognize the PLO. But the Foreign Ministry official maintained that Thailand and the State of Palestine had always had good relations.

The killing incident has prompted the Saudi Government to suspend the issuance of working visas for Thai workers, but visas will be granted to Thai officials, businessmen and Thai Muslims travelling to Mecca, the official said. However, Mr. Heglah told reporters here that Thailand "should not be blamed for the incident."

Thai-Saudi relations, strained since the shootings, improved after a Thai diplomatic mission, headed by Deputy Thai Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan, held talks with Saudi leaders in Riyadh last week. The suspension on working visas for Thai workers continues as Saudi Government officials have cited the lack of sufficient embassy staff to process the hundreds of visas still on the waiting list.

The official said Mr. Heglah also expressed interest in purchasing up to one million tonnes of Thai rice for re-export to other Midddle East and African countries. The PLO officials also offered to cooperate with the Thai Government in other fields, such as trading in crude oil and labor exports, but that details had yet to be discussed, the official said.

The PLO sent its foreign minister here in October to discuss the possibility of Bangkok's recognizing the state of Palestine, which the PLO declared in exile in November 1988. Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan has said that any recognition of the PLO "would require an approval from the cabinet," Thai Government officials said. But Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetasila told reporters that recognition of the State of Palestine, "would depend on emerging circumstances."

Envoy Threatens To Leave

BK1702072590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Feb 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] The Saudi Embassy's charge d'affaires threatened to leave the country over the press report suggesting he was behind the recent murder of three embassy officials in Bangkok, Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha said last night.

Banhan said the envoy, Abdullah H al-Shubaili, was very angry with the report and asked for a meeting with him early this week to lodge a complaint.

"He told me he was ready to leave the country," Banhan said in a special interview on TV Channel 9 last night.

Banhan said the incident prompted him to order Police Director General Pol Gen [Police General] Sawaeng Thirasawat to consider revoking the licence of NAEO NA. The paper was closed down on Wednesday for a headline and story in its Feb 8 edition that suggested the Saudi envoy was one of the suspects in the murder case.

Sawaeng also appeared in the interview programme last night to report on progress in the police investigation into the case. Banhan used the programme to justify his decision to close NAEO NA.

NAEO NA is the first daily to be closed under Decree No. 42 by the Chatchai Government since it came to power in 1988. The paper's appeal to the Civil Court on Thursday was rejected.

Banhan said the paper's report on the murder case was detrimental to Thai-Saudi relations.

Sawaeng said the paper had been warned for violating Decree No. 42 on three occasions before. "But this time it was a very serious offence and I decided to revoke its licence despite my usual respect for freedom of the press," Sawaeng said.

Commenting on the murder case, Sawaeng said police were trying their best to get the culprits despite the complexity of the case. He said special police protection is being provided around the clock for all the Saudi diplomats.

"I can't say right now when we will get the assassins. But I hope we will be able to get them soon," he said.

Banhan said police were more inclined to believe that the murder was a result of international conflicts.

But he said police have not ruled out conflicts in labour export as the cause of the murder.

One of the slain officials, Abdallah 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Basri, was a second secretary and consular head in charge of issuing visas to Thai workers going to Saudi Arabia.

Papers Criticize Government

BK1602105790

[Editorial Report] Two Thai-language dailies—SIAM RAT and MATICHON—on 16 February carry editorials and a column on the police closing of a Thai-language daily, NAEO NA, following its report on the recent murder of three Saudi Arabian Embassy officials in Bangkok.

The 500-word SIAM RAT editorial on page 8 entitled "National Administrative Reform Council Decree No. 42" points out that, despite repeated statements by the prime minister and interior minister that they have no policy of shutting down any newspapers, the police director general ordered the NAEO NA daily newspaper shut down indefinitely beginning 14 February.

The editorial emphasizes that the order to close the paper should serve as a lesson for journalists and the public that "in reality, the existence of press freedom is temporary and depends only on the mood of the government authorities."

"This lesson should prompt those in journalist circles to unite and call for the government, which has always preached democracy, to immediately cancel this decree," the paper emphasizes.

A column by Samoemat Asa on page 3 in the same paper entitled "Closing NAEO NA" says it is very regrettable that the government under the leadership of Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan, which has been regarded as the first fully democratic government of the decade, has made such an "outdated and completely dictatorial decision." The column notes that the decision reflects insincerity by the government.

Considering the news coverage on the Saudi murder case, which led to the paper's closure, we can see that this newspaper referred to its source as the Police Department, which is responsible for the case. If the report was not correct, the paper should be warned and should be forgiven, the column remarks. "The punishment of NAEO NA and the accusation that it created a rift in Thai-Saudi bilateral relations causing difficulties for Thai workers in Saudi Arabia is a matter of jumping to a conclusion too quickly. This is sad for a newspaper that tries to protect the well-being of the country," concludes the column.

The 700-word MATICHON editorial on page 8 entitled "Decree No. 42 and the Press" notes that the order to close the paper is the strongest punishment in seven years and contradicts the prime minister's and interior minister's repeated statements that they would do nothing to violate the people's rights and freedom. Regarding the basic principle of rights and freedom of learning and expression in the democratic system, which the press and mass media serve as representatives of the people, the closure order can imply that the government is revoking these rights and freedom and does not care if the people cannot express their opinion.

"In the present political situation, the government has several more suitable and legitimate options in dealing with the press than to implement an unjust law that journalists and lawyers have long urged be canceled," the paper states. In the end, the paper urges the government to reconsider its decision and the possible repercussions.

Chatchai Revokes Closure

BK1802042490 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan has permitted the reopening of the Thai-language daily NAEO NA newspaper, which had been closed by police last

Wednesday [14 February] after sensationalizing the murders of the Saudi diplomats, an Interior Ministry source said yesterday.

The source said Chatchai instructed Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha and police chief Gen Sawaeng Thirasawat to allow the NAEO NA newspaper to start its publication on condition that the editor publishes a retraction of its mistake.

"NAEO NA newspaper will be on sale again by Monday [19 February] at the latest," the source said.

Sawaeng, excercising his power under the 1976 military government Decree No. 42, signed the order closing the paper on Wednesday [14 February] for "irresponsible" coverage of the recent murder of three Saudi embassy officials in Bangkok.

Suggested by the Foreign Ministry and endorsed by Chatchai, the NAEO NA was shut down after it ran its frontpage story on Feb 8 headlined, "Saudi diplomats to be arrested for murdering countrymen." The unattributed report said that Thai police suspected four diplomats at the Saudi Embassy in Bangkok of masterminding the killing of the embassy officials.

Police said NAEO NA's reporting was irresponsible and served only its own commercial interests, "without taking into consideration the interests of the country," regarding Saudi authorities' reaction.

NAEO NA management on Thursday submitted a petition to the Civil Court seeking to revoke the police order withdrawing the paper's publishing licence.

The source said yesterday that Premier Chatchai personally intervened to revoke the closure order after learning that the court had not yet processed the newspaper's petition.

NAEO NA's Editorial Department chief, Nopphon Tungkharat, said yesterday that the police order was illegal because the paper had already published a retraction on Feb 9.

Nopphon said NAEO NA employs about 200 people and morale was low due to the closure. However, the staff were still paid during the closure.

The management of NAEO NA had also lodged letters with Premier Chatchai and Minister Banhan on Friday seeking permission to reopen the paper, claiming the paper had no intention of creating damage to the country.

Press Release on Saudi Ban

BK2102015990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] The Saudi Arabian government has advised its citizens not to travel to Thailand fearing for their safety following the disappearance of a Saudi businessman last week, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

A ministry press release yesterday said it believed the action stemmed from concern over the safety of Saudi citizens here after the disappearance of Muhammad al-Ruwayli on Feb 12 and the killing of three Saudi embassy officials earlier this month.

"We hope these restrictions will prove temporary and that the situation will soon return to normal," the ministry said.

The impact of the Saudi government's advice on the number of Saudi arrivals in Thailand was not immediately known.

Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha yesterday said such action shows the Saudi government was still concerned about the safety of its citizens here.

"The Saudi government apparently wants to show their displeasure over the killings and a possible kidnap in the latter case," the minister said.

—Deputy Labour Director General Prasong Rannanon said yesterday that 82 Thai workers whose employment contracts had expired arrived at Don Muang airport yesterday.

Prasong said the workers will not be allowed to seek new employment contracts in Saudi Arabia for the time being.

Trade With Middle East Via 'Palestine'

BK1702055290 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] Thailand will sell one million tons of rice and buy oil from Middle Eastern countries through Palestinian traders this year, Ambassador Kopsak Chutikun said yesterday.

Mr Kopsak, ambassador attached to the Foreign Ministry, did not say which Middle Eastern countries Thailand will deal with through Palestinian traders.

He said Thailand and the State of Palestine have already agreed to open trade ties.

Thailand has not yet formally recognised the State of Palestine.

The Palestinians have requested opening an embassy in Bangkok. However, Mr Kopsak said, Thailand would wait until the time was right to recognise the State of Palestine.

He said the "right time" was probably when there was no progress in Middle East peace efforts.

Thailand's recognition of the State of Palestine at such moments might reactivate the peace process, he said.

He said Thailand would maintain diplomatic ties with Israel and would not interfere in any conflict between Israel and the Palestinian state.

A Palestinian delegation comprising Deputy Foreign Minister Abdullatif Abu Heglah, head of the President's Office Sami Mussalam and Ambassador to Laos Shahir Muhammad met National Security Council Secretary-General Suwit Sutthanukun yesterday.

They are to meet Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan tomorrow.

Editorial Views Shift in Thai-Soviet Relations

BK2102035990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Feb 90 p 10

[Editorial: "A New Face on Soviet Policy"]

[Text] In recent decades, the Soviet Union has often been perceived as distinctly unfriendly to Thailand. In past years, when it was run under a system of government decidedly anti-democratic, Moscow seldom even tried to disabuse the world of this notion. For many years it lent support to the crumbling Communist Party of Thailand. On several occasions, members of its diplomatic and business community in Bangkok have been caught red-handed spying against our government and others. Although never at war and seldom even at direct loggerheads, the Thai Government and the Soviet administration seldom saw eye to eye on any issue.

That was then; this is now.

In the past several years and months, Moscow has taken a remarkable climb down from its diplomatic and military perch. Under the direction of the remarkable Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union has changed, inside and out. The catchwords have been perestroyka and glasnost. The results of these twin policies have been nothing short of earth-shattering in political terms.

Over an extended weekend less than a fortnight ago, Thailand welcomed the highest-ranking Soviet communist ever to visit here. Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov made something of a hit in many circles of the country. Although neither as charismatic nor as powerful as Mr Gorbachev himself, the Soviet premier opened up avenues of communication between Moscow and Bangkok which had never before existed. The Government of Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, quite rightly, made Mr Ryzhkov welcome. Officials and businessmen listened to the messages carried by the Soviet government leader and they are being given serious consideration.

The Soviet premier, on substantive issues, stayed pretty much on matters of business, specifically trade. This is a field which offers doubtless advantages to both nations. In fact, in the arenas both of expertise and raw materials, Thailand and the Soviet Union have much to offer and to complement each other. Now that Moscow has instituted certain amounts of freedom to its industry, our two countries may be able to do business.

Mr Ryzhkov disappointed a few by failing to address the specifics of the still major political problems that exist. Chiefly, these involve Indochina, and most especially Cambodia. Moscow continues to supply weapons to the Phnom Penh government, at a time when much of the world—including this newspaper—has called for a halt to such arms supplies. Other questions still unresolved in the new situation are Soviet military operations in Asia, not least of them the confusing status of the Russian bases at Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang.

There is no real reason for such disappointment. The new Soviet policies still are evolving. Mr Ryzhkov went to some pains to assure Thai officials that these policies remain firmly based upon two Asian speeches by Mr Gorbachev in 1986 and last year. The Vladivostok and Krasnoyarak declarations, while perhaps less than visionary, established clear and attainable goals for Soviet policy in Asia.

Much remains to be discussed and solved between our country and the Soviet Union. Statements made by the visiting Russian premier, however, indicated that solutions may, in the future, be reached. Mr Ryzhkov's promises during his visit indicated that Moscow is beginning to take the opinions of others into account when making its foreign policy. Since this is all Thailand wished for from the start, it is a welcome move indeed.

Developments Noted on Possible Cabinet Reshuffle

Chatchai Denies Changes

BK1702085590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan said yesterday the Opposition's anti-government rally at Sanam Luang on Thursday did not have the impact to justify a Cabinet reshuffle.

"There will be no change (in the Cabinet)," he said.

The Premier also rejected a call by the Solidarity Party, which claimed to be supported by some 40,000 people who attended the rally, that he dissolve Parliament.

"The consensus did not take place in Parliament. A demand made on the streets cannot be considered a consensus," he said.

While congratulating Solidarity for being able to attract a large number of people to its rally, General Chatchai said that opposition members did not offer any new allegations which the Government had not explained.

The Prime Minister said opposition members during the rally attempted to link him to the controversial development projects in northern Phuket proposed by the Inter Maritime Group of Swiss business tycoon Bruce Rappaport.

Gen Chatchai said Rappaport had proposed the project during the last administration and it had been known then as the "Prem Resort."

The project since then had been under the consideration of the Finance Ministry, Gen Chatchai said.

He said he and Rappaport were friends. "As a friend I have frequently reminded him that Thailand is not like anywhere else. We can drink and play golf together and that is as far as our relations can go."

He said that he had informed Rappaport that a person who associates with senior Thai government officials frequently would be looked at by others in a negative way.

"I warned him about this and he has never asked any favours from me," Gen Chatchai said.

He also denied the Opposition's allegation that he had been dishonest in handling the operation of the Erawan Trust which was taken over by the April 4, 1984 lifeboat scheme.

The Opposition claimed during the rally that up to 1,600 million baht had been missing from the company's accounts when the firm's books were examined by officials of the lifeboat scheme.

Gen Chatchai, who had been chairman of the company, said that he relinquished all positions at the trust in 1979.

He said that he used to hold about one percent of the company's shares worth about one million baht, but now had no connection with the firm.

Sources Predict Reshuffle

BK1802052290 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Feb 90 p 1

[By Phanni Nanthachalakonkit]

[Text] Premier Chatchai Chunhawan told the Prachakon Thai Party he will definitely reshuffle his Cabinet soon, informed sources told THE NATION yesterday.

The sources said the premier preferred to wait for a voluntary "graceful exit" by the Democrat Party from the coalition rather than kicking them out but added that if there was no choice, he would have to impose the change.

The Democrat Party has suffered a serious credibility crisis as a result of the Suan Kitti Reforestation scandal involving the Agriculture Minister Maj Gen Sanan Khachonprasat. The Democrat minister was accused by the opposition of colluding in the alleged encroachments by Suan Kitti in national forest reserves in Chachoengsao, Prachin Buri and Chon Buri. Maj Gen Sanan has dismissed the charges and ruled out the possibility of stepping down because of the scandal.

Chatchai mentioned the possibility of the Cabinet shakeup at a meeting with Prachakon Thai deputy secretary General Sanya Sathirabut, acting as party leader Samak Suntharawet's emissary, in the wee hours of Friday.

The early-morning meeting at the premier's Ratchakhru residence followed the opposition Solidarity Party rally against the government, particularly Maj Gen Sanan at Sanam Luang on Thursday night.

The premier also mentioned his preference for the Prachakon Thai Party to join the coalition government, saying, "I would like to see us work together (in the same government)," according to the sources, who spoke on the condition that they would not be identified.

Chatchai was also quoted as saying that if Prachakon Thai entered the coalition, he would allocate six Cabinet portfolios to the party but no details were discussed at the meeting.

At the meeting, Sanya was quoted as conveying Samak's preference for the communications portfolio, currently occupied by Social Action Party secretary general Montri Phongphanit.

The premier did not mention whether he would bring in another smaller opposition party in the shakeup but speculation has it that former supreme commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek's Puangchon Chaothai could be co-opted to take three Cabinet posts.

The Democrat Party's possible departure from the government will leave 10 Cabinet portfolios vacant in addition to the seat left by non-partisan Michai Ruchuphan's resignation as PM's [Prime Minister's] Office minister late last year. The sources also speculated that the premier would set aside one of the 10 Democrat posts for a nine-MP [member of Parliament] Chat Thai faction led by Gen Han Linanon, which defected from the opposition camp last year.

A Puangchon Chaothai source, meanwhile, told THE NATION that Chatchai and Gen Athit have been in contact for a while but added that he was not aware of a definite commitment by the premier for his party's entry into the coalition just yet.

There were already speculations that Gen Athit may take over as deputy premier or defence minister if the Democrat Party pulls out. Chatchai currently holds the defence portfolio.

Informed sources said the Prachakon Thai Party had earlier agreed in principle to join the coalition and had been waiting for the premier's decision on a Cabinet reshuffle. Chatchai's message to Sanya was taken by Prachakon Thai leaders as the first clear sign so far from the premier that he would replace the Democratic Party with Prachakon Thai and most likely, bring in Puangchon Chaothai as well.

A major obstacle to Prachakon Thai's entry into the Chat Thai-lead coalition has apparently been removed after Chat Thai secretary general Banhan Sinlapa-achha recently dropped his grudge against Samak, who had earlier been highly critical of the interior minister.

An informed source said that in a meeting on Jan 26 between Banhan and Sanya, the interior minister said, for the first time, that Samak had improved his political conduct quite a lot. Sanya had been trying to convince Banhan that Samak's previous attacks on him were not personal.

In earlier behind-the-scenes talks with Samak, Chatchai had mentioned the possibility that the Prachakon Thai Party would get only four Cabinet posts because he would have to keep four others for "military officers" and the other two for Gen Han's faction in Chat Thai.

The sources said it appeared to them that the premier had dropped the option of bringing in "military officers," judging from the increase in the "quota" of Cabinet posts for Prachakon Thai from four to six. Moreover, they noted that the premier and a top military officer, tipped to challenge Chatchai's political leadership after his resignation, have clearly developed a better understanding lately.

Already, a group of top Prachakon Thai leaders had tentatively worked out which six Cabinet posts will go to whom in the party.

One source said that Sanya submitted the list to the premier during their meeting early Friday morning, but another said Samak had called a meeting tomorrow of party executives and MPs to sound out their reactions to the positioning of MPs.

Assuming that Montri will not give up his communications portfolio, Samak would take over as agriculture minister, Koson Krairoek (Nakhon Sawan) as deputy premier replacing Chuan Likphai, Sanya (Bangkok) as deputy interior minister succeeding Trairong Suwannakhiri, Prachum Rattanaphian (Bangkok) as public health minister replacing Marut Bunnak, Bunthiam Khemaphirat (Bangkok) as deputy public health minister succeeding Suthat Ngoenmun and Warothai Phinyasan (Chantaburi) as deputy communications minister succeeding Anek Thapsuwan.

The sources said the Prachakon Thai's leadership had set a condition that at least two of the party's six nominees must be appointed full ministers.

Post for Chawalit Reported

BK1902034790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Talks are underway to offer Army chief Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut the dual post of deputy prime minister and defence minister in a reshuffled Cabinet that may be announced in the next two weeks.

Informed sources told THE NATION that Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan had sent signals to Gen Chawalit that he would like him to join a new Cabinet line-up that is under consideration.

The army chief is expected to resign as army chief to enter politics—if the ongoing behind-the-scenes talks materialize.

A group of 28 full generals, led by Deputy Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, earlier held a dinner at the Central Plaza hotel to ask Gen Chawalit not to join the coalition government, for fear that his reputation could be tainted. Chawalit responded at that time by rejecting the prime minister's offer to assume the interior portfolio.

But a new offer is being put forth by the prime minister, who is contemplating a government coalition line-up that would bring in the Prachakon Thai Party to replace the Democrat Party. Sources said although Gen Athit Kamlang-ek's Puangchon Chao Thai Party has been cited as a possible candidate to join the new coalition, Chawalit's agreement to join the new line-up would exclude Gen Athit from the reshuffled Cabinet.

The 28 army generals remain opposed to Gen Chawalit's joining the government, and have said he should remain in the army. But another source said Gen Chawalit has publicly declared he would quit the army before schedule—a pledge he could not possibly renege on if his reputation was not to be affected.

"Gen Chawalit has to keep that pledge. And he is seriously considering the prime minister's new offer. What do you expect him to do—quit the army and enter the monkhood for the rest of his life?" an aide asked.

Chawalit is expected to meet the generals, supporters who will continue to play an important role after he enters politics, to explain to them why he may have to accept the new offer from Gen Chatchai.

His aides have advised Chawalit against joining the factionalism-plagued Chat Thai Party. The generals also feel that Chawalit would be tarnished by joining the party. "Too many scandals have hit too many Chat Thai members," one of his aides said.

If Chatchai brings in Prachakon Thai, he may also have to include a few small splinter parties to get sufficient MPs [members of Parliament] for the government side. According to sources, during preliminary talks soon after the Sanam Luang rally last Thursday [15 February], Chatchai said to an emissary from Prachakon Thai that he was prepared to offer six Cabinet posts to the party in a new line-up.

The Democrat Party's possible departure from the coalition government will leave ten Cabinet portfolios vacant, in addition to the seat left empty by non-partisan Michai Ruchuphan's resignation as a PM's [Prime Minister's] Office minister late last year.

A Puangchon Chao Thai source said Chatchai and Athit had been in touch with each other but added that he was not aware of a definitive commitment by the prime minister for his party's entry into the coalition.

One informed source said if Gen Chawalit agrees to join the new line-up, Gen Athit would not be included in the coalition.

"Talk about Gen Athit's entry into a new coalition may ease the generals' opposition to their boss, Gen Chawalit, taking the defence post," he said.

Chawalit Defends Military's Role in Democracy

BK1702053290 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] The military should no longer be seen as a destructive force as they have been supporting democracy to the hilt by sacrificing their lives and blood to the cause, Army Commander-in-Chief Gen [General] Chawalit said yesterday.

Gen Chawalit came to the defence of the military after he was asked to comment on Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's comments about democracy.

The Premier on Thursday was asked by reporters if the rally by the Solidarity Party at Sanam Luang could

lead to a state of disorder. Gen Chatchai said there was nothing to worry about. He turned to reporters and said the country's democracy is now over 50 years old and he wondered if anyone wanted to step backwards.

The Army Chief said he did not understand what the Prime Minister had said. He said he wanted to ask Gen Chatchai but somehow forgot to. He added that on Thursday night someone asked him whether the remark meant Gen Chatchai had asked whether the reporters wanted the military to take over the country's administration.

"I think this was not what he meant to say. More importantly, nobody wants to step backwards," he added.

"During this time, all of us have taken part in caring for and building up the country. We cannot be democratic only by words. We have to also act. We should not hold a pestle in one hand while pledging to uphold moral principle (roughly in Thai means to act indecently while speaking of morality)," Gen Chawalit said.

Gen Chawalit said he did not understand why people tend to turn to the military for reactions whenever talking about a coup. "Probably they have no one else to turn to and so they turn to the military. I just don't know what to do," he added.

"The armed forces have supported democracy with their lives and blood because we realise that democracy is the best tool to get rid of the country's enemy."

"Democracy is necessary for the country's development and goes along well with a free market system that requires competition for efficiency and not competition for the under-the-table interests.

"Therefore, let's stop saying that the military will destroy democracy. Let's not look at the military as a destroyer," Gen Chawalit said.

Speaking of the rally by the Solidarity Party at Sanam Luang on Thursday night, Gen Chawalit said it was within the rights of the people to express their opinions within proper limits.

"I think the Government is open-minded concerning the move. The rally was conducted in a democratic way," he said.

On politicians' ethics, Gen Chawalit said they should be sincere and be careful not to infringe on the rights of other politicians.

He cited the case of Kanchanaburi MP [Member of Parliament] Chawin Phao-ar who apologised to him for a mistake but some people saw it as a loss of prestige and not a gentlemanly act.

While commenting on the conduct of some politicians, Gen Chawalit said the military has no right to interfere. "But we won't tolerate any action which destabilises the country," Gen Chawalit said.

Gen Chawalit called for restraint concerning allegations on forest encroachment, saying the problem should be solved with reason and not with emotion.

Column Analyzes 'Tense Political Atmosphere'

BK1802073690 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Feb 90 p 8

[From the "Inprint" column: "Waiting for the Final Bell"]

[Text] On the surface, the tense political atmosphere seemed to have improved after Army Commander-in-Chief and Acting Supreme Commander Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut called on Prime Minister Gen Chatchai Chunhawan at the latter's Ratchakhru residence on February 7. The meeting took place following widespread allegations that the Army was behind the current political chaos and the port strike.

After the meeting, Gen Chawalit told reporters that everything (concerning the Army) was all right. He said he did not expect a dissolution of Parliament or the fall of the Government which he added should last its four-year term. The next day, when Gen Chawalit was giving a keynote speech at Sukhothai Thammathirat University, the military chief said the Government is actually a good one which will continue to receive military support. His only request is that the Government should not be too hoo bao (gullible).

But when the situation is seen in perspective, intense political manoeuvering or jockeying for positions of all the game players continue to contribute to periodic political storms. Examples are the unions' demand the Government scrap privatisation plans with the deadline set for February 15, and the huge rally by the opposition Solidarity Party purportedly to expose government corruption in the Suan Kitti land-grabbing scandal.

Another worrying development was the meeting of commanders of all combat-ready army units in Bangkok on February 14 to condemn Kanchanaburi MP [member of Parliament] Chawin Pao-ari of the Democrat Party for his February 11 press statement.

The MP said he knew well where all political pressure came from. Besides, the raid on Suan Kitti reforestation projects was not instigated by the Opposition but there must have been some other reasons behind this move.

"Look at the port strike. You can see that it is an old tactic which has been used for more than 10 years. At the negotiation table every party responsible for the issue was there but the workers demanded to speak to a person who happened not to be there. Wasn't that strange?" the MP asked.

"Moreover, Armed Forces chief-of-staff Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong told reporters after the strike was called off that more mobs can be expected in the future and sure enough the electricity workers organised a mob the next day. At the same time Gen Chatchai said he was ready to appoint Gen Chawalit as Defence Minister."

He said that the political development was the work of an army officer who wants to resign from the post and enter the political arena.

"As it happens, the political door was not open, although it was not completely closed. You can't just enter politics, and to ask an MP to resign to make way for you would be to invite criticism. Therefore the only way open is to try and push the Democrats out of the coalition to force a dissolution of Parliament. This matter has been announced at a party meeting on January 30 and several senior party members have accepted it (as being true)."

All of the above is part of a political chess game being played by one side, while the other side has sworn not to yield to pressure from state enterprise unions which are seen as being mere pawns being manoeuvered by the other side. At the same time, "rumours" are leaked of a possible dismissal similar to that experienced by former Army chief Gen Athit Kamlang-ek who was stripped of his powerful army command and left only with the largely ceremonial Supreme Command post.

The latter is very dangerous because although Gen Chatchai may have the apparent authority, he does not enjoy the deep ties which exist between Gen Chawalit and the armed forces.

The recent announcement of Gen Chawalit to appoint deputy army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun as his next successor has also brought unity between Gen Chawalit and graduates of the Chunlachomklao Army Academy Class 5. If Gen Chatchai wants to neutralise such a powerful group, he may have to appoint someone of his own to the top army position so he would have power over the military.

But it won't be that easy because moving someone from the post and appointing another officer other than Gen Suchinda will not bring a positive result to the Government.

However, KHAO PHISET said the trend for Gen Chawalit's future is that he may resign in April without accepting any portfolio in the Chatchai government. And if current political developments force the Government either to resign or dissolve Parliament, then Gen Chawalit may contest in the general election. If he wins, his chance of becoming the next prime minister is said to be high because he will certainly gain wholehearted support from the military, especially from the Chunlachomklao Class 5.

The magazine said Gen Chawalit's recent warning to the Government to stop listening to rumours and his reaffirmation of the military's support for the Government will help ease tensions between the Government and the military for a short period.

In the opinion of KHAO PHISET both Gen Chatchai and Gen Chawalit have equal chances of being cornered, and after the bout is over, it would mean the dissolution of Parliament.

Chawalit Says Southern Separatism To End

BK2002035190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Feb 90 p 7

[Text] Thailand's problem with southern separatist movements is likely to be resolved within two years, Army Commander Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday.

Gen Chawalit was addressing delegates from 12 countries attending the 19th Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar (PASOLS) which began yesterday and ends on Saturday [24 February].

Thailand, which borders Burma, Malaysia, Laos and Cambodia, has fought against internal and external threats, he said.

On the internal threat, Thai governments have virtually ended the armed struggle by the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) with the 66/2523 policy.

In the South, Thailand's cooperation with Malaysia has ended an armed struggle by the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM).

"The only internal threat remaining is the separatist movement, which I believe will be finished in not more than two years," Gen Chawalit said.

Thailand has enjoyed good relations with Burmese leader Gen Saw Maung and wants to see elections in that country bring in a democratic government, he said.

Concerning Thailand's relations with Laos, Gen Chawalit said Laotian Military Chief-of-Staff Gen Sisavat Keobounphan has been cooperative and helped end border disputes and revive cross-border trade.

With Australia's aid, a bridge across the Mekong River linking Thailand and Laos, will soon be built.

"More importantly, Laos is looking forward to welcoming Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon on her visit," Gen Chawalit said.

With Cambodia, Thailand has tried to arrange for all sides concerned to meet to solve the country's civil war.

"Thailand never sees Vietnam as its enemy. We have relations with socialist countries and have tried our best to create peace in the region," Gen Chawalit said.

Attending the 19th PASOLS were delegates from Australia, the United States, New Zealand, the Philippines, Indonesia, South Korea, Bangladesh, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Tonga and Thailand.

Ten other countries sent delegations to the seminar as observers.

Thailand Denies Possession of Chemical Weapons

BK2102025890 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] A BUENOS AIRES HERALD article written by Nicolas Coles published in Argentina dated on 4 February accused Thailand of being one of the countries in Asia which possess chemical weapons. The fact is that Thailand does not possess nor intends to have in possession any chemical weapons and has strictly abided by the 1925 Geneva protocol for the prohibition of the use in

war of [word indistinct] poisonous, or other gases, and of bacteriological methods of warfare to which she has been a party since 1931.

Thailand is also aware of the ineffectiveness of the said protocol in preventing widespread use of chemical weapons and has thus joined the international community in supporting the work of the UN subsidiary conference on disarmament in Geneva to conclude a comprehensive convention on the banning of chemical weapons to supplement the protocol at the earliest date possible.

Vietnam

Setback in Boat People Repatriation Talks Noted

BK2002142990 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] British attempts to persuade the Vietnamese authorities to accept the return of more boat people have received a setback, with Vietnam insisting that a program of forcible repatriation must have American consent. The Vietnamese position was made clear by the vice foreign minister, Mr. Dinh Nho Liem, in an interview with Hong Kong television stations. Mr Liem is hosting a visit to Vietnam by the British minister responsible for Hong Kong, Mr. Francis Maude. From Hanoi (Humphrey Huxley) reports:

[Begin recording] At this late stage of his visit, Mr. Maude has failed to win a breakthrough he wanted and revive an agreement between Britain and Vietnam that boat people be sent back under a program of mandatory repatriation. Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister, Mr. Dinh Nho Liem said the United States was adamant in its objection to forced or nonvoluntary repatriation. He explained that there were many outstanding issues in efforts to normalize relations with America and the government did not want to add any further elements to complicate them. Mr. Liem said he hoped Hong Kong would appreciate Vietnam's position. He said Mr. Maude had seemed confident that Washington could be persuaded to change its mind. He did not know if President Bush was going to listen to Mrs. Thatcher's advice. Britain has made no secret of its anger over Washington's policy. Mr. Maude described this as illogical, and if any substantive progress is to be made, he hoped it would be in the meeting and (?dinner) with Vietnam's Foreign Minister Mr. Nguyen Co Thach. But, Mr. Thach, who postponed the talks for two hours without explanation, had only just flown back from a politburo meeting in Ho Chi Minh City in the south where the problem of the boat people is not believed to be on the agenda. Though the issue of forcible repatriation remained unresolved, Vietnam has made it clear that it will cooperate on the program of voluntary return, which Mr. Maude said he wants speeded up to 12,000 boat people a year. [end recording]

Talks End Without Agreement

BK2102082090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0725 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 21 (AFP)—A top British official wound up his four-day visit here Wednesday [21 February] without an agreement between Britain and Vietnam on the issue of forced repatriation of Vietnamese boat people from Hong Kong. But both parties agreed that discussions would continue in Hanoi "to reach agreement on that by the end of February," said Francis Maude, Britain's minister with special responsibility for Hong Kong, after his last meeting with Vietnamese officials.

Mr. Maude told the press that Vietnam and Britain had agreed on increasing the number of Vietnamese returning voluntarily from Hong Kong "to around one thousand a month by the beginning of May." There are currently about 57,000 Vietnamese who have arrived illegally in Hong Kong in the past few years, with about 15,000 of them having obtained refugee status. Most of the remainder, considered economic migrants rather than political refugees under a screening policy implemented in June 1988 in the British colony, must return to Vietnam voluntarily or not, British authorities say.

Officials View Country's Future in Rebuilding

BK2102020990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Feb 90 p 8

[Article by Kawi Chongkitthawon entitled: "Wall of Distrust is Coming Down"]

[Text] In anticipating the end of the Cambodian conflict, Vietnam is grasping to find its place in the global community, particularly in Southeast Asia, which has been its battleground for more than four decades.

Interviews with Vietnamese leaders in recent weeks such as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and chairman of the State Committee on Cooperation and Trade Vo Dong Giang, plus readings of recent literature on Vietnam's foreign policy strongly indicate Vietnam's concern at being left out in the overall scheme of things in the region.

These Vietnamese leaders admit that in the 1990s Vietnam faces a tremendous task in rebuilding the nation of 65 million people. Despite committed efforts to continue with economic and limited political reforms, the Vietnamese leadership has so far no been successful in creating an external environment friendly enough to support its on-going domestic reforms.

International support has not increased, as Hanoi had hoped, during the past five months since Vietnam withdrew its troops from Cambodia. Instead, foreign countries, especially those in ASEAN, continue to question Vietnam's intentions. Vietnam is seeking to break its diplomatic and economic isolation on various fronts. First and foremost is the effort to normalize ties with the

United States and China. To secure official development assistance through international aid organizations and Western countries and to increase economic ties with the rest of Southeast Asian nations are other priorities.

Vietnam's normalization with the US and China has been delayed, although fresh signals from both major powers show that better relations are in the offing.

Some Vietnamese Foreign Ministry officials are optimistic that US-Vietnam normalization will be realized within this year. The US-Vietnam seminar in Bali last week, organized by the Aspen Institute, a foreign studies think-tank, added impetus to this positive trend.

Vietnamese officials said they have fulfilled all requirements raised by Washington as preconditions for normalization. Among these are information on Amerasian orphans, those American servicemen missing in action (MIAs), resumption of the orderly departure programme for Vietnamese who wish to resettle in the West, release of prisoners in re-education camps, no rejection of Vietnamese boat people who return home voluntarily, troop withdrawal and maintenance of "doi moi" policy—Vietnamese version of perestroyka.

Vietnamese officials said the US must speed up the development of diplomatic ties with Vietnam in view of recent changes in the Soviet Union, particularly the reduction of Soviet forces in Cam Ranh Bay. And there is the growing presence of the European Community in Vietnam to compete with.

Diplomats based here were originally confident that a normalization in Sino-Vietnamese relations would come much quicker as China has expressed willingness to get on better terms with Vietnam, especially after both countries celebrated the 40th anniversary of their friendship.

Vietnamese officials reasoned that after the Tiananmen massacre, it was necessary for China to muster support from Asian communist nations (North Korea and Vietnam) amid the swift changes that have engulfed the communist parties of East Europe.

"Naturally, Vietnam comes first," said a senior Vietnamese Foreign Ministry official.

The official said that recently, through diplomatic channels, Chinese leaders, including Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, have indicated once again China's readiness to overcome the Cambodian problem with Vietnam.

"They have used the word 'soon' in describing an improvement of Sino-Vietnamese relations," the official said.

Now the prevailing feeling in Hanoi is that US-Vietnamese normalization will supercede Sino-Vietnamese ties.

"If the US normalizes ties with Vietnam now, it gives both sides many advantages," said Le Mai, assistant to the Foreign Minister before leaving for the Bali meeting.

Washington and its main ally, Tokyo, have been the main stumbling block in releasing loans and assistance to Vietnam through international financial institutions such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund [IMF]

Le Mai said the lifting of a trade embargo and diplomatic boycott would help Vietnam's current economic reforms.

Although international aid has played an important role in economic management and development projects, it only amounted to US$150 million last year, of which US$67 million came through various UN agencies.

Aid workers gave high marks to Vietnam's cooperation. In fact, government officials have been highlighting the close working relations with the UN agencies, in absence of other official assistance.

State Committee on Cooperation and Trade chairman Giang said that Vietnam needs financial assistance from both the IMF and World Bank to strengthen the reform programme in Vietnam.

The most difficult problem for the future Vietnam is its position in Southeast Asia and role vis-a-vis ASEAN.

Vietnamese leaders want to see Southeast Asia as a zone of peace and neutrality, which derives more or less from ASEAN's concept of Zopfan (Zone of peace, freedom and neutrality).

At the same time, Vietnam wants to benefit from the economic growth of ASEAN countries. Time and againt Vietnam has expressed an interest in joining ASEAN. But beyond rhetoric, ASEAN is very reluctant to accept Vietnam as a member.

One ASEAN diplomat said that ASEAN was not a geographic concept. It was an organization representing common values in well-defined political economies. "Vietnam has not come close to that trend yet," he said.

"ASEAN needs a realistic reassessment of the situation in Vietnam," said Le Mai, who believes ASEAN continues to hold grudges against Vietnam.

In a recent interview, Thach said that Southeast Asian nations, including Burma, should get together and work out a new framework for regional cooperation that would lead to a common prosperity.

Ho the Lan, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, said that changes in East Europe have encouraged more regional cooperation throughout the world.

If the recent discussions between ASEAN and the EC in Kuching on Vietnam last week were any indication, ASEAN's attitude towards Vietnam has hardly changed from its decade-old, hard-line stance full of mistrust.

Against all odds, Vietnam still hopes that after the dust of Cambodia has settled, the international community,

especially ASEAN, will take a closer look at Vietnam without the prejudices that have separated them.

Then, Vietnam can look forward to greater cooperation with all of its former foes in the Asian-Pacific region.

Discussions Continue on Mass-Proselytizing Work

Vo Nguyen Giap, Youths Meet

BK1702141990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Comrade Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the party Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, on 15 February met and talked in Hanoi with cadres of the youth union on the occasion of the Communist Party of Vietnam's 60th founding anniversary and President Ho Chi Minh's 100th birthday, and to prepare for welcoming the party Central Committee's eighth plenum resolution on the party's mass motivation task.

During the cordial meeting, Comrade Vo Nguyen Giap as a brother and friend of youths listened to the thoughts, feelings, aspirations and views expressed by youths as contributions to the draft program of the eighth plenum resolution.

In a cordial dialogue with youths, Comrade Vo Nguyen Giap cited proof through various periods in the history of the world and Vietnam, suggesting a correct direction for youth thinking about the success of socialism and asserting socialist construction in Vietnam as an essential path. While the party and state are striving to ensure stable living conditions for all the people, youths must strenuously build a pure and healthy lifestyle, love and respect one another, and remain united. They must not pay attention to collective life only but, first and foremost, build happy and harmonious family life and serve as healthy cells for the whole society.

Party Department Meets

BK1802143990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] From 15 to 17 February in Hanoi, the party Central Committee Nationalities Department held a conference on mass-proselytizing work for 1990 in the northern provinces from Quang Binh northward. The conference was chaired by Comrade Nong Duc Manh, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the party Central Committee Nationalities Department.

Delegates to the conference suggested that the state quickly concretize all policies toward the mountainous regions aimed at gradually improving the econmoic, cultural, and social life of our compatriots of all nationalities who have suffered losses over the past years, as well as at creating favorable conditions for them to permeate the socioeconomic life of people throughout the country.

Dong Nai Solicits Opinions

BK1802110190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] The Dong Nai provincial party committee has decided to launch a political indoctrination drive among the entire local party organization and people to solicit opinions on the party's mass-proselytizing work in a spirit of true democracy and openness. To ensure that the drive achieves good results, the standing body of the provincial party committee has devised concrete plans and assigned its members and a number of party committee members to directly supervise the political indoctrination drive at grass-roots party organizations.

The provincial party committee will strive to achieve the objective of this drive. The objective is to make cadres, party members, and the people thoroughly understand the contents of the party Central Committee's New Year message and Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh's speech at the ceremony marking the party's 60th founding anniversary, come into contact with and review the leadership of all grass-roots party organizations, and solicit their opinions on the party Central Committee's eighth plenum platform on renovating the party's mass-proselytizing work and truly developing the people's right to mastery.

The requirements of the political indoctrination drive involve achieving a high identity of views among cadres, party members, and the people on the viewpoints concerning the leading role of the CPV in revolution and the assessment of its glorious achievements and fine traditions during the past 60 years, as well as its errors, shortcomings, and present tasks; coming into contact with and reviewing the leadership of grass-roots party organizations; setting forth guidelines for the struggle to correct shortcomings of party chapters and party members concerning the key and leading role of grass-roots party organizations in arranging for the masses to implement all resolutions and policies of the party; and extensively arranging for cadres, party members, and the people to contribute opinions to grass-roots party organizations and mass organizations, especially on the party Central Committee's eighth plenum platform.

The Dong Nai party committee considers this political indoctrination drive as one of great significance that is aimed at continuing to affirm and enhance the comprehensive leading role of our party, as well as of the provincial party organization, in the struggle to successfully carry out all political, economic, and social tasks in the present situation. A number of party organizations and party chapters at the grass-roots level have been chosen to experiment with this drive in order to acquire experience for use in guiding all of the others.

Soviet Magazine Cited on Vietnamese Reforms

BK1702141190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] In its issue No. 3 of February 1990, the magazine KOMMUNIST, organ of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, carried an article by (Bogatova) on economic reforms in our country.

After introducing the renovative policies adopted by the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and other party Central Committee plenums, escpecially the sixth plenum, the article concluded: Marking the party's 60th founding anniversary, the Vietnamese Communists, supported by broad segments of the people of all strata and with their sense of responsibility, are solving complex issues set forth by history.

Being highly sensitive to the events that took place in China and the East European countries, the Vietnamese people of all walks of life are discussing ways to renovate the CPV and firmly retain and consolidate its leading role without allowing fierce conflicts to burst out in society and without delaying the process of reforms that is currently underway.

Italian President Supports Vietnamese Struggle

BK1802071690 Hanoi VNA in English 0535 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 18—Italy is ready to cooperate with and support the Vietnamese people in building a new prosperous Vietnam, said President Francesco Cossiga while receiving Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Viet in Rome on February 13.

After receiving the Vietnamese ambassador's credentials, the Italian leader expressed his warm feelings toward the Vietnamese people's struggle for national independence in the past and his belief that the long-standing and friendly ties between the Vietnamese and Italian peoples would further consolidate and develop following the recent Vietnam visit of Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis.

Vo Van Kiet Views External Economic Relations

BK1602154390 Hanoi VNA in English 1413 GMT 16 Feb 90

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 16—Vietnam's policy is to expand its external economic relations, said Vo Van Kiet, first vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, at a symposium on national economy and investment sponsored by the World Economic Forum (WEF) held in Davos, Switzerland, on Feb 4-7. He said:

"At present, the primary objective of the Vietnamese Government and people is economic development. In the process of our economic construction and development in service of the people, we are not reluctant to make full use of the knowledge already accumulated and experimented by the human civilisation, considering them useful tools to achieve the most effective and quickest results."

Referring to the main points of Vietnam's renovation policy, Vo Van Kiet said:

"First we are changing the structure of the national economy first of all to develop agriculture, regarding it as the foremost front to conform with the concrete conditions and requirements of the country instead of giving priority to the development of heavy industry. The immediate and urgent objective is the production of foodgrain and foodstuff and other essentials in the people's daily life.

"We assert the role of the other economic sectors besides the state sector and recognize their positive contributions to the development of the national economy. Now, all Vietnamese are free to engage in trading and business, have the right to own productive means and to enjoy the results of their productive and business activities, and are equal with the state and collective economic sectors before law. In other words they are entitled to enrich themselves and this right is protected by law."

"Secondly, we are renewing the mechanism of socio-economic management, in other words changing the mode of running the economy, abolishing the method of centralized planning and control over the activities in goods production and circulation through a system of mandatory norms and regulations on pricing fixed by the central government. We are fully aware that in order to spur economic development, produce more commodities and create abundant services it is essential to apply the laws of commodity production. Hence, the managerial mode must be made more flexible and dynamic on the basis of the plan for orienting the socio-economic development.

"Thirdly we are carrying on the policy of broadening our external economic relations policy of opening as we call it aimed at expanding goods exchange and relations of cooperation and investment with all economic organizations and all countries of goodwill, irrespective of their political systems and on the principle of equality and mutual benefit, thus diversifying our economic relations. We are steering our country toward ever broader and deeper participation in the international division of labour and our integration into the regional and international markets. We sincerely want to establish economic ties with our friends on all continents, especially in East Asia, the Pacific and Southeast Asia.

"In late 1987, the Vietnam National Assembly passed a new law on foreign investment. Since then, many foreign teams have come to Vietnam for fact-finding and investment studies, by the end of 1989, Vietnam has granted more than one hundred licenses to foreign partners with a total capital investment of more than 800 million U.S. dollars, chiefly in the areas of oil exploitation, aquaculture and fishery, consumer-goods, tourism and services.

In 1990, the first international forum on foreign investment in Vietnam will be organized.

At present the Vietnamese Government is offering preferential treatment to all foreign-investment projects in service of the three major national economic programmes, namely the production and processing of agricultural products, manufacture of consumer and export commodities, and also projects in the banking service.

For the time being, we are encouraging small and medium-scale investment projects employing a large workforce.

As we have stated many times we are ready to normalize our relations with the United States. We also reiterate our earnest desire to re-establish the traditional relations of neighbourliness with China and to broaden our cooperative ties with all countries on the basis of mutual trust, respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, equal footing and mutual benefit. In that sense, we welcome all partners, customers, investors and companies from all countries who would come to our country for cooperation, goods exchange and investment in the reconstruction of Vietnam.

Social Science Commission, Others Hold Seminar

BK1902093290 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Many theoretical and practical issues of vital concern in party building work were discussed frankly and heatedly at a scientific seminar recently held at the Ho Chi Minh City Revolutionary Museum by the Social Science Commission, the Party Central Committee Research on Party History Department, and the Ho Chi Minh City Social Science Council. The seminar was attended by Comrade Vo Tran Chi, secretary of the city party committee.

Some 30 statements were presented at the seminar expounding many relatively diversified views on various fundamental issues, such as the development of theoretical work on the basis of scrupulously and systematically inheriting a world outlook and Marxist methology; the establishment of the laboring people's authority toward economic activities; and the humanitarian nature, scientific and technological revolutions, and mordern commodity-based economy of socialism. These statements also disclosed many views on such practical, burning questions as the struggle against bureaucratism, authoritarianism, corruption, degeneration, and degradation and the measures that should be adopted to consolidate the party organization and administration.

More seminars will be held after this one to continue exchanging views on every domain in order to help [words indistinct] party work, especially [words indistinct]

Nguyen Khanh Receives Visiting Lao Delegation

BK1802145890 Hanoi VNA in English 1433 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 18—Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nguyen Khanh received here this afternoon a delegation of the Lao Ministry of Information and Culture led by its acting minister Son Khamvanvongsa who is also an alternate member of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

Earlier, the Lao delegation held talks with a delegation of the Vietnamese Information Ministry headed by its minister Tran Hoan and a delegation of the Ministry of Culture led by its minister Tran Van Phac. The two sides signed several protocols on bilateral cooperation in information and culture.

The delegation also had working sessions with the leaderships of VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY, Voice of Vietnam Radio and the Central Television.

Editorial Discusses Press Law Promulgation

BK1702115590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Feb 90

[NHAN DAN 15 February editorial: "Press Publication"]

[Text] In the renovation undertaking, our news media—consisting of printed press, radio, television, centrally and locally run newspapers, journals, and magazines—are making important contributions to meeting the requirements for timely, accurate, and useful information of a large number of readers nationwide.

The newly promulgated press law is instrumental in spurring the qualitative and effective development of our news media and in improving the role and responsibility as citizens of press writers and workers—editors, layout planners, printers, and publishers. Press publication work involving the dissemination of those materials concerning the spiritual life by the contingent of journalists to readers is very important. Thanks to various editorial staffers, press publication systems, post offices, newsstands, and newspaper boys, the press dissemination network is set in motion nationwide. Many localities have done a good job in press publication, for they have ensured regular deliveries of a sizable volume of newspapers to readers. Yet, more than a few localities fail to bring newspapers to those who need them. The number of newspaper copies published is still too small. Many grass-roots party chapters and organizations have not yet received copies of NHAN DAN, TAP CHI CONG SAN, and other newspapers. Several military units and mass organizations at the grass roots have not been provided with copies of QUAN DOI NHAN DAN nor have they had their own news bulletins.

Propaganda-training, information, cultural, and postal organs must cooperate in grasping the situation and

formulating practical plans for vigorously spurring press publication work for the news media to develop more satisfactorily in all areas throughout the country.

In the period ahead, along with gathering the people's critical opinions on the party, and with studying and contributing opinions to the draft of the political platform for the party Central Committee's coming eighth plenum and to other preparatory documents for the seventh party congress and for major anniversary celebrations in 1990, the need to intensify press publication work becomes ever more pressing. Particularly, the party press—namely NHAN DAN and SUNDAY NHAN DAN, TAP CHI CONG SAN, and party newspapers in various provinces and cities—must launch a widespread campaign to have all party cadres and members read newspapers and contribute to developing the efficiency of the press in society.

If press publication work is to be consolidated with a higher sense of political responsibility, it is certain that we will be able to vigorously develop our country's revolutionary press, that is, to make significant contributions to the national renovation undertaking.

Le Quang Dao Visits Thuan Long Cooperative

BK1702130590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao recently visited and worked in industrial cooperative Thuan Long, a good production and business unit in Gia Lam District of Hanoi. After 14 years or so of construction, Thuan Long now has installed good material and technical bases to develop industrial production and conduct trade services and monetary transactions in a general manner.

Besides industrial production installations and electricity projects, Thuan Long also has a center to support cooperation with Cambodia in development and a credit fund established by the people with total capital of 3 billion dong or more involving only 300 million dong of bank loans, and fixed assets worth 1 billion dong, including 7,000 square meters of houses and shops, a chemical factory, advanced industrial installations, a 40-cubic-meter-hour water distribution station, a 640-kilovolt-ampere transformer station, and three retailing shops.

After visiting some production and business installations, Comrade Le Quang Dao cordially talked with the cadres and members of the cooperative. On this occasion, Chairman Le Quang Dao urged leaders of Gia Lam District and Hanoi City to satisfactorily sum up the experiences of well-performing units and continue to remove problems for primary installations in order to increase the number of good installations and gradually reduce and then completely do away with poorly performing and losing installations.

Dong Sy Nguyen Addresses Irrigation Conference

BK1902093390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] The Ministry of Water Conservancy held a conference in Ho Chi Minh City from 15 to 17 February to review the 1989 activities of the water conservancy sector and discuss orientations for its activities in 1990.

Last year the water conservancy sector succeeded in putting over 5 million hectares under irrigation, with the areas of winter-spring and summer-fall crops accounting for over 2.8 million hectares. The results obtained through various key projects—namely Dong Thap Muoi, Long Xuyen quadriangle, and west Song Hau—have contributed to a sharp increase to multicropping. However, efforts to manage farmland irrigation projects in 1989 showed a decline compared with those in the preceding year. In many localities, farmland irrigation teams have ceased to exist, and this has caused difficulties for the regulation and distribution of water flow and for the collection of irrigation fees.

Addressing the conference, Dong Sy Nguyen, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, commended the sector for its achievements and emphatically pointed out that local irrigation forces should play an assault role on the farmland irrigation front. The conference conferred a Council of Ministers' rotating banner to Hai Hung Province.

Decision on Establishing State Treasury Issued

BK1702093690 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] The minister of finance recently issued a decision on setting up a state treasury subordinate to the Ministry of Finance. The decision points out:

At the central level, a state treasury will be set up and placed under the direct jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance. In various provinces and in those municipalities and special zones which are under the direct jurisdiction of the central government and which are usually referred to as provinces for short, there will be branches of the state treasury set up to operate under the direct jurisdiction of the state treasury. In districts and corresponding levels, there will be sub-branches of the state treasury set up to operate under the direct jurisdiction of the state treasury branches concerned.